

## Guys and Dolls – Chapter 11 – September 11, 2001

September 11, 2001... Lest we forget...

American Airlines flight 11 took off from Logan International Airport at 8:02 am, and the plane is believed to have been hijacked at 8:14. Flight 11 crashed into the north side of the north tower of the World Trade Center (WTC) at 8:46:40 am, local time.

United Airlines flight 175 was scheduled to depart from Logan International Airport at 8:00, but was delayed until 8:14. The crew of flight 175 knew about the prior hijacking by the time they were overtaken, at around 8:45 am. At 9:03:11 am local time, flight 175 crashed into the south tower, covered live on TV.

American Airlines flight 77 was scheduled to depart from Washington Dulles International Airport at 8:10 am, but actually departed at 8:20. By 8:54, the flight had been hijacked. Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon at 9:37:46 am local time.

United Airlines flight 93 was scheduled to depart at 8:00 am, but did not lift off until 8:47 due to routine traffic. At 9:24 am, Flight 93 received the warning "Beware any cockpit intrusion – two a/c [aircraft] hit World Trade Center." from flight dispatch. At 9:26 am the pilot asked for confirmation of the message. Two minutes later, the hijackers took over the plane. At about 9:28 am, flight controllers in Cleveland overheard some commotion, and possibly screaming, from Flight 93's cockpit. 40 seconds later, more screams were heard. During this time the aircraft dropped 700 feet. The flight controllers tried to contact the pilot and received no reply. At 9:32, a man with an Arabic accent, probably Ziad Jarrah, transmitted to flight control the following: "Ladies and gentlemen, here the captain, please sit down, keep remaining sitting. We have a bomb on board. So sit." The plane crashed into a reclaimed coal-mining area near Stonycreek Township, Somerset County, Pennsylvania and Shanksville, Somerset County, Pennsylvania at 10:03 am.

Jack got up and made some coffee and got around for work. While he was drinking his coffee and eating a bowl of cereal, he turned on CNN to catch the news. The time was 6:15am in Arizona, which didn't observe daylight savings time. It was 9:15 am in New York and New York did observe daylight savings time. He watched horrified at the breaking news that CNN was broadcasting. CNN was replaying the crash of flight 175 as it crashed into the south tower of the World Trade Center.

"Shelia, come watch the news," Jack woke Shelia. Next he called Mike.

"Mike planes just crashed into both towers of the World Trade Center in New York City," Jack announced.

"What channel are you watching?" Mike responded groggily.

"CNN, but I doubt that it makes a difference what channel you watch," Jack replied.

By the time Mike cleared his head and had a pot of coffee going, flight 77 had crashed into the Pentagon. Thoughts of school quickly vanished when Tommy came to the family room and saw Mike watching TV. George W. Bush, the new President, was notified of the attacks while attending a class in a Florida school. In an effort to avoid alarming the children Bush held off saying anything and shortly later left the classroom for destination unknown.

The following is a brief chronology of the events of that day. All times EDT:

8:45 am: A hijacked passenger jet, American Airlines Flight 11 out of Boston, Massachusetts, crashes into the north tower of the World Trade Center, tearing a gaping hole in the building and setting it afire.

9:03 am: A second hijacked airliner, United Airlines Flight 175 from Boston, crashes into the south tower of the World Trade Center and explodes. Both buildings are burning.

9:17 am: The Federal Aviation Administration shuts down all New York City area airports.

9:21 am: The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey orders all bridges and tunnels in the New York area closed.

9:30 am: President Bush, speaking in Sarasota, Florida, says the country has suffered an "apparent terrorist attack."

9:40 am: The FAA halts all flight operations at US airports, the first time in US history that air traffic nationwide has been halted.

9:43 am: American Airlines Flight 77 crashes into the Pentagon, sending up a huge plume of smoke. Evacuation begins immediately.

9:45 am: The White House evacuates.

9:57 am: Bush departs from Florida.

10:05 am: The south tower of the World Trade Center collapses, plummeting into the streets below. A massive cloud of dust and debris forms and slowly drifts away from the building.

10:08 am: Secret Service agents armed with automatic rifles are deployed into Lafayette Park across from the White House.

10:10 am: A portion of the Pentagon collapses.

10:10 am: United Airlines Flight 93, also hijacked, crashes in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, southeast of Pittsburgh.

10:13 am: The United Nations building evacuates, including 4,700 people from the headquarters building and 7,000 total from UNICEF and UN development programs.

10:22 am: In Washington, the State and Justice Departments are evacuated, along with the World Bank.

10:24 am: The FAA reports that all inbound transatlantic aircraft flying into the United States are being diverted to Canada.

10:28 am: The World Trade Center's north tower collapses from the top down as if it were being peeled apart, releasing a tremendous cloud of debris and smoke.

10:45 am: All federal office buildings in Washington are evacuated.

10:46 am: US Secretary of State Colin Powell cuts short his trip to Latin America to return to the United States.

10:48 am: Police confirm the plane crash in Pennsylvania.

10:53 am: New York's primary elections, scheduled for Tuesday, are postponed.

10:54 am: Israel evacuates all diplomatic missions.

10:57 am: New York Governor George Pataki says all state government offices are closed.

11:02 am: New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani urges New Yorkers to stay at home and orders an evacuation of the area south of Canal Street.

11:16 am: CNN reports that the Center for Disease Control and Prevention is preparing emergency-response teams in a precautionary move.

11:18 am: American Airlines reports it has lost two aircraft. American Flight 11, a Boeing 767 flying from Boston to Los Angeles, had 81 passengers and 11 crew aboard. Flight 77, a Boeing 757 en route from Washington's Dulles International Airport to Los Angeles, had 58 passengers and six crew members aboard. Flight 11 slammed into the north tower of the World Trade Center. Flight 77 hit the Pentagon.

11:26 am: United Airlines reports that United Flight 93, en route from Newark, New Jersey, to San Francisco, California, has crashed in Pennsylvania. The airline also says that it is "deeply concerned" about United Flight 175.

11:59 am: United Airlines confirms that Flight 175, from Boston to Los Angeles, has crashed with 56 passengers and nine crewmembers aboard. It hit the World Trade Center's south tower.

12:04 pm: Los Angeles International Airport, the destination of three of the crashed airplanes, is evacuated.

12:15 pm: San Francisco International Airport is evacuated and shut down. The airport was the destination of United Airlines Flight 93, which crashed in Pennsylvania.

12:15 pm: The Immigration and Naturalization Service says US borders with Canada and México are on the highest state of alert, but no decision has been made about closing borders.

12:30 pm: The FAA says 50 flights are in US airspace, but none are reporting any problems.

1:04 pm: Bush, speaking from Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana, says that all appropriate security measures are being taken, including putting the US military on high alert worldwide. He asks for prayers for those killed or wounded in the attacks and says, "Make no mistake, the United States will hunt down and punish those responsible for these cowardly acts."

1:27 pm: A state of emergency is declared by the city of Washington.

1:44 pm: The Pentagon says five warships and two aircraft carriers will leave the US Naval Station in Norfolk, Virginia, to protect the East Coast from further attack and to reduce the number of ships in port. The two carriers, the USS George Washington and the USS John F. Kennedy, are headed for the New York coast. The other ships headed to sea are frigates and guided missile destroyers capable of shooting down aircraft.

1:48 pm: Bush leaves Barksdale Air Force Base aboard Air Force One and flies to an Air Force base in Nebraska.

2 pm: Senior FBI sources tell CNN they are working on the assumption that the four airplanes that crashed were hijacked as part of a terrorist attack.

2:30 pm: The FAA announces there will be no US commercial air traffic until noon EDT Wednesday at the earliest.

2:49 pm: At a news conference, Giuliani says that subway and bus service are partially restored in New York City. Asked about the number of people killed, Giuliani says, "I don't think we want to speculate about that – more than any of us can bear."

3:55 pm: Karen Hughes, a White House counselor, says the President is at an undisclosed location, later revealed to be Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska, and is conducting a National Security Council meeting by phone. Vice President Dick Cheney and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice are in a secure facility at the White House. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld is at the Pentagon.

3:55 pm: Giuliani now says the number of critically injured in New York City is up to 200 with 2,100 total injuries reported.

4 pm: CNN National Security Correspondent David Ensor reports that US officials say there are “good indications” that Saudi militant Osama bin Laden, suspected of coordinating the bombings of two US embassies in 1998, is involved in the attacks, based on “new and specific” information developed since the attacks.

4:06 pm: California Governor Gray Davis dispatches urban search-and-rescue teams to New York.

4:10 pm: Building 7 of the World Trade Center complex is reported on fire.

4:20 pm: US Senator Bob Graham, D-Florida, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, says he was “not surprised there was an attack (but) was surprised at the specificity.” He says he was “shocked at what actually happened – the extent of it.”

4:25 pm: The American Stock Exchange, the NASDAQ and the New York Stock Exchange say they will remain closed Wednesday.

4:30 pm: The President leaves Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska aboard Air Force One to return to Washington.

5:15 pm: CNN Military Affairs Correspondent Jamie McIntyre reports fires are still burning in part of the Pentagon. No death figures have been released yet.

5:20 pm: The 47-story Building 7 of the World Trade Center complex collapses. The evacuated building is damaged when the twin towers across the street collapse earlier in the day. Other nearby buildings in the area remain ablaze.

5:30 pm: CNN Senior White House Correspondent John King reports that US officials say the plane that crashed in Pennsylvania could have been headed for one of three possible targets: Camp David, the White House or the US Capitol building

6 pm: Explosions are heard in Kabul, Afghanistan, hours after terrorist attacks targeted financial and military centers in the United States. The attacks occurred at 2:30 am local time. Afghanistan is believed to be where bin Laden, who US officials say is possibly behind Tuesday’s deadly attacks, is located. US officials say later that the United States had no involvement in the incident whatsoever. The attack is credited to the Northern Alliance, a group fighting the Taliban in the country’s ongoing civil war.

6:10 pm: Giuliani urges New Yorkers to stay home Wednesday if they can.

6:40 pm: Rumsfeld, the US defense secretary, holds a news conference in the Pentagon, noting the building is operational. “It will be in business tomorrow,” he says.

6:54 pm: Bush arrives back at the White House aboard Marine One and is scheduled to address the nation at 8:30 pm. The President earlier landed at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland with a three-fighter jet escort. CNNs John King reports Laura Bush arrived earlier by motorcade from a “secure location.”

7:17 pm: US Attorney General John Ashcroft says the FBI is setting up a Web site for tips on the attacks. He also says family and friends of possible victims can leave contact information at 800-331-0075.

7:02 pm: CNNs Paula Zahn reports the Marriott Hotel near the World Trade Center is on the verge of collapse and says some New York bridges are now open to outbound traffic.

7:45 pm: The New York Police Department says that at least 78 officers are missing. The city also says that as many as half of the first 400 firefighters on the scene were killed.

8:30 pm: President Bush addresses the nation, saying, *thousands of lives were suddenly ended by evil* and asks for prayers for the families and friends of Tuesday’s victims. *These acts shattered steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve*, he says. The President says *the US government will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed the acts and those who harbor them*. He adds that government offices in Washington are reopening for essential personnel Tuesday night and for all workers Wednesday.

9:22 pm: CNNs McIntyre reports the fire at the Pentagon is still burning and is considered contained but not under control.

9:57 pm: Giuliani says New York City schools will be closed Wednesday and no more volunteers are needed for Tuesday evening’s rescue efforts. He says there is hope that there are still people alive in rubble. He also says that power is out on the Westside of Manhattan and that health department tests show there are no airborne chemical agents about which to worry.

10:49 pm: CNN Congressional Correspondent Jonathan Karl reports that Attorney General Ashcroft told members of Congress that there were three to five hijackers on each plane armed only with knives.

10:56 pm: CNNs Zahn reports that New York City police believe there are people alive in buildings near the World Trade Center.

11:54 pm: CNN Washington Bureau Chief Frank Sesno reports that a government official told him there was an open microphone on one of the hijacked planes and that sounds of discussion and “duress” were heard. Sesno also reports a source says law

enforcement has “credible” information and leads and is confident about the investigation.

Name the other events in the last 50 years that captured the attentions of Americans like the events of 9/11. They will include the assassination of John Kennedy on 11/22/63, the Tiananmen Square protests in 6/89 and then 9/11/01.

“Shit,” Tommy said when the south tower fell. Mike gave him a freebie because he agreed with the sentiment, if not the language.

Early estimates were of a death toll perhaps in the tens of thousands. In the end, the death toll was as follows:

WTC-Towers: 2,595, flight 11: 92, flight 175: 65  
Pentagon-Building: 125, flight 77: 64  
Shanksville-flight 93: 45  
Total: 2,986

On the evening of September 11, 2001, the President declared a war on terror. As a result, President Bush’s approval rating soared to 85%, its highest rate since. Bush’s military response to the terrorist attacks began in October of 2001, with the deployment of 11,000 troops to invade Afghanistan. In the weeks before they did so, the Taliban twice offered to turn over bin Laden to a neutral country for trial, but was ignored by the United States, which then invaded Afghanistan and deposed the Taliban government.

On September 16, 2001, Osama bin Laden stated, *I stress that I have not carried out this act, which appears to have been carried out by individuals with their own motivation*, which was broadcast by Qatar’s Al-Jazeera satellite channel. This statement received very little coverage internationally, and no media coverage in the United States.

(Osama bin Laden apparently took responsibility for the attacks on October 29, 2004, when he stated in a videotaped speech, sent to Al-Jazeera: *I say to you, Allah knows that it had never occurred to us to strike the towers. But after it became unbearable and we witnessed the oppression and tyranny of the American/Israeli coalition against our people in Palestine and Lebanon, it came to my mind. ... And as I looked at those demolished towers in Lebanon, it entered my mind that we should punish the oppressor in kind and that we should destroy towers in America in order that they taste some of what we tasted and so that they be deterred from killing our women and children.*)

September 12, 2001...

Jack went to work and Tommy went to school. Shelia and Ginger inventoried the contents of the shelters. Mike drove first to Flagstaff and then to Phoenix. He bought every round of .40S&W he could find and several bricks of .22LR ammo. Shelia and Ginger had the diesel fuel and the propane tanks topped off. Jack and Shelia had their own *white cigar* identical to Mike and Ginger’s.

September 13, 2001...

Both of the generators in the shelters were serviced by a fella who came down from Flagstaff. Ginger contacted the supplier and ordered 4 additional 1-year Individual supplies of the Mountain House Ultimate-Pak II, 2 for Jack and Shelia and 2 for Mike and her. They ran the entire purchase through the Partnership under the category employee benefits. They already had the food for Jose and Maria, but there were new children to consider.

October 7, 2001...

At approximately 12:30am EDT, 17:00 local time on Sunday October 7, 2001, US and British forces began an aerial bombing campaign targeting Taliban forces and al Qaeda. At some time between 9/11 and 10/7, the US Special Forces and British SAS had infiltrated Afghanistan. The war on terror had begun in earnest. The United States began to play catch up. But why had first Clinton and then Bush rejected offers to turn over Osama bin Laden to the US and then a neutral country? And the score? US-3, bin Laden-6. (2 embassies, USS Cole, 2 towers and the Pentagon)

Thursday, November 15, 2001...

This was Tommy's last birthday before he became a teenager. When Mike and Ginger tried to figure out what to get Tommy for his birthday, in addition to the clothes, they were stumped. Mike wanted to give Tommy something of lasting value, but he was short on ideas. And then it occurred to him that Tommy was growing up and he went to Flagstaff and bought a blued Ruger Single Six, model NR-5F, with a 5½" barrel, Rosewood grips and a holster and belt. Ginger was a little leery, but Tommy had proven to be very responsible when it came to the Winchester 9422. Plus, the firearms were kept under lock and key and Tommy didn't have the combinations to either gun safe. Besides, Mike argued, Tommy was again pulling down straight A's.

That wasn't the end of the terrorist attacks in 2001. Three more incidents occurred by the end of the year:

- On December 12, the Jewish Defense League plot to blow up the King Fahd Mosque in Culver City, California had been foiled.
- On December 13, there was a terrorist attack on the Indian Parliament.
- On December 22, Richard Reid, attempting to destroy American Airlines flight 63, was subdued by passengers and flight attendants before he could detonate his shoe bomb.

(History would later reveal that the number of terrorist incidents increased every year after the year 2001.)



Sedona, Arizona isn't really on the beaten path. It was most unlikely that if there were further terrorist incidents in the years to come that Sedona would be directly affected. And living, as they did, a few miles south of town gave the 2 friends an ideal location to avoid any involvement in future terrorist events. They presumed that about the worst thing they had to fear was bad weather.

Historically the worst things to happen in the US were power blackouts. On Tuesday, November 9, 1965, approximately 80,000-square miles of the Northeast, a total of eight states, falls into darkness, as the triple conductor line fails. Begins with a faulty relay in Canada Toronto, the first city afflicted by the blackout, goes dark at 5:15pm. Rochester follows at 5:18pm, and then Boston at 5:21pm. New York, finally, loses power at 5:28pm. The failure affects four million homes in the metropolitan area, and leaves between 600,000 and 800,000 people stranded in the city's subway system. Late in the evening, around 11pm, President Lyndon Johnson calls New York Mayor Robert Wagner to offer assistance. "Like a pinched aorta," journalist Theodore White later wrote, the blackout "caused an entire civilization to flicker with it." By midnight, more than 90 percent of subway passengers are freed. By 4:44am the next day, power is restored to Manhattan.

On August 13, 1977, New York City suffered a massive blackout. All five boroughs as well as areas in the northern suburbs of Westchester County were plunged into darkness as lightning downed major transmission power lines supplying power to the metropolitan area. While many dealt with the blackout in a peaceful and neighborly fashion, a number of communities erupted in violence. Looters broke into stores, taking merchandise, and destroying local businesses. In place of the evening glow ordinarily produced by the city's abundant electrical lighting, fires lighted the darkened skyline, leaving charred remnants of once lively neighborhoods. Within the short span of two days, police had arrested 3,766 looters and the city had suffered an economic blow that one estimate placed at more than \$300 million. Unlike the 1965 blackout, when the lights went out in 1977 the most distressed neighborhoods of the City endured what Time magazine called "A Night of Terror."

On January 17, 2001, California's Governor Gray Davis declared a state of emergency. Rolling blackouts hit northern and central California. In the wake of 9/11, it was revealed that a company by the name of Enron had taken advantage of the energy crunch in California. The US didn't need to import terrorists; arguably, it had enough of its own homegrown variety. By the way, Timothy McVeigh was executed by lethal injection at the US Federal prison in Terre Haute, Indiana on June 11, 2001.

Florida didn't experience a single hurricane during 2001. The only storm to cross Florida was Gabrielle, which moved from west to east and hit Florida on September 14th. Gabrielle didn't become a hurricane until it was in the Atlantic Ocean several days later. The events of September 11, 2001 in New York and Washington overshadowed everything. There was talk about the 1993 bombing of the WTC and the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing but in reality, the events of 9/11 became a watershed. In a world gone mad, terrorists became the new rulers of the world. How many of those 19 terrorists who hi-

jacked the planes and flew them into the WTC, the Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania can you name?

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January 1, 2002...

What do you buy for a man who has everything? Mike had Ginger and Tommy and a pretty nifty bomb shelter in the basement. He had all of the guns he'd ever need and there was no way Ginger could afford to buy a Hummer. At least not with all of her money tied up in those 2,400 gold coins in the safe in the basement. Tommy had to reciprocate for the rifle and that Ruger Single Six revolver. He got Ginger to help him buy Mike a Randall model 2 Fighting Stiletto with an 8" blade. Not to be outdone by a 12-year old boy, Ginger bought Mike a Randall Model 12 Smithsonian Bowie – 11" blade, 2¼" wide, of ⅜" stock. Top cutting edge sharpened. 5¼" (approximate) leather handle. Brass lugged hilt. Duralumin butt cap. A replica of the famous Bowie knife of a century ago, similar to type displayed in the Smithsonian and used in the motion picture *The Iron Mistress*.

"I don't know what to say," Mike claimed when presented with his birthday presents. Mike was smart, he clamed up and gave them both a hug. The simple truth was neither knife was very practical unless you were fighting Méxicans in a church in southern Texas in 1836. But, these were Randall made knives, arguably the best that money could buy. The only company that came close to the steel in a Randall made knife was that outfit in Ventura, California named Cold Steel.

Mike had never bought the Barrett and had seen a rifle in a gun shop in Phoenix that he really liked. It was that rifle by McMillan, the synthetic stock people. It was expensive, but not so much when compared to the Barrett. The rifle could be purchased as a rifle or as a system which included an extra magazine, scope, etc.

The only thing of note that happened during January of 2002 was the State of the Union Address. *Our cause is just, and it continues. Our discoveries in Afghanistan confirmed our worst fears, and showed us the true scope of the task ahead. We have seen the depth of our enemies' hatred in videos, where they laugh about the loss of innocent life. And the depth of their hatred is equaled by the madness of the destruction they design. We have found diagrams of American nuclear power plants and public water facilities, detailed instructions for making chemical weapons, surveillance maps of American cities, and thorough descriptions of landmarks in America and throughout the world.*

*Our second goal is to prevent regimes that sponsor terror from threatening America or our friends and allies with weapons of mass destruction. Some of these regimes have been pretty quiet since September the 11th. But we know their true nature. North Korea is a regime arming with missiles and weapons of mass destruction, while starving its citizens. Iran aggressively pursues these weapons and exports terror, while an unelected few repress the Iranian people's hope for freedom.*

*Iraq continues to flaunt its hostility toward America and to support terror. The Iraqi regime has plotted to develop anthrax, and nerve gas, and nuclear weapons for over a decade. This is a regime that has already used poison gas to murder thousands of its own citizens – leaving the bodies of mothers huddled over their dead children. This is a regime that agreed to international inspections – then kicked out the inspectors. This is a regime that has something to hide from the civilized world.*

*States like these, and their terrorist allies, constitute an axis of evil, arming to threaten the peace of the world. By seeking weapons of mass destruction, these regimes pose a grave and growing danger. They could provide these arms to terrorists, giving them the means to match their hatred. They could attack our allies or attempt to blackmail the United States. In any of these cases, the price of indifference would be catastrophic.*

## Guys and Dolls – Chapter 12 – Was History Repeating Itself?

2002...

The White House was predicting a terrorist event would occur on February 13th. So much for Tom Ridge and his agency, the Office of Homeland Security, nothing happened. In March 2002, Homeland Security Chief Tom Ridge unveiled a new color-coded threat advisory system for the United States. The idea was to create a way to convey the risk of terrorist attacks to federal, state, local authorities and the American people. The coded warning system had five levels that were associated with a suggested protective measure and would trigger specific actions by federal agencies and local law enforcement.

During the first year the system was in place, the threat level was elevated 3 times. The first on the anniversary of 9/11, the second and third times would come the following year, first in February during Hajj and later in March when the President gave Saddam 48 hours to step down. The President campaigning to go to war in Iraq occupied most of 2002. And as one might well imagine, that had Mike very upset. He had predicted back in early 2000 that Bush would find an opportunity to finish what his father had started. Saddam didn't think that Bush would dare invade Iraq because Iraq had essentially complied with the conditions set down in '91. To make matters for the US worse, Russia, China and France opposed the invasion of Iraq in the UN.

In Sedona, Tommy was accomplishing a couple of things. In the classroom, he was holding down straight A's and was the object of attention of several of the girls as he finished up 6th grade. At home, he was becoming quite the rider, thanks to Jose's tutelage. He was growing, having added another 4". It seemed that the only recourse Ginger had was to buy his Wranglers a little long and let him stack them on his boots. During this particular year Hummer brought out that new model, the H2. However with the additional expense of feeding and clothing 3 instead of 2, Mike couldn't even afford that model. If you recall, by the time the H2 came out it cost about as much as the original Hummer and the Hummers had slipped up to almost \$100k.

When Mike had been a young man, they had called it Junior High School, but these days it was called Middle School. Mike and Ginger had several discussions on the subject of adopting Tommy. In the end, they decided not to adopt because Tommy was getting a college fund as they accumulated the money from the state of Arizona for the foster care. Mike had turned 54 on January 1st and on her next birthday, Ginger would be 48. Looking back at how the relationship began, Mike and Ginger had a good chuckle.

Do you remember what Jack had said? He'd described Shelia as a 40-something blonde. He was right of course; she'd been 40 when they'd met. She'd be 45 this year and he would be 55. With the twins finally out of diapers, she was looking forward to the day when those diapers would become dust rags. Shelia had worked in tower 2 at the WTC before she had that trouble in New York and returned to Arizona. She knew some of the people that had died in the WTC and occasionally had a nightmare imagining she

was in the building when it fell. It had been so bad in the beginning that the doctor had put her on Ativan.

Jose's sister Teresa had finally left around the first of the year to get married. Maria was dividing her time between doing secretarial work and house cleaning. Juan and Tommy were inseparable. Those 6th grade girls that were looking at Tommy no doubt had their eyes on Juan. The boys were at that awkward age when they didn't know if they wanted to go horseback riding or chase girls. Give them another year and let those hormones kick in and it might turn into going horseback riding with the girls.

Throughout 2002 as the economy went further into the toilet the price of gold had steadily raised. It had almost hit \$330 during June. They didn't know it at the time but by the end of the year it would approach \$350. And the following year, gold would hit \$400 an ounce by the first day of December.

This was the summer that they went to Disneyland. Tommy wanted Juan to go along and Ginger decided that it wouldn't be fair unless they also invited Teresa. In early June before it got too hot, they headed to Santa Barbara to see Ginger's family. After several days in Santa Barbara, they headed down the coast to go to Disneyland. The trip happened to take them through the community of Ventura. Mike stopped and went into the Cold Steel outlet and picked up Christmas presents for Juan and Tommy. They continued on to Anaheim, arriving shortly after noon and closed up the park. They spent 2 nights in the Disneyland Hotel and a second day watching the kids enjoy themselves. If you've never been to Disneyland, there is only one rule you should remember, take lots of money. The bad thing about going to Disneyland is all of the walking, especially if you have a bad back. Been there, done that, got the T-shirt.

But wait, just a few miles from Disneyland is Knott's Berry Farm. And then if you head north, there's always Magic Mountain. One day each in the other two parks pushed the kids to the limit of their endurance. Just try to go to California for the first time with 2 12-years olds and a 10-year old and not hit all three parks. The kids will never forgive you if they can't see all three and after all, it's only money. (Lots of money – take it from a Disneyland Daddy!)

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July 4, 2002...

"Did you have a good time at Disneyland?" Jack asked.

"I'll let you know when my back heals up," Mike replied. "But, at least the 3 kids got to see all of the amusements."

"I still have that to look forward to," Jack laughed.

“Jack by the time your kids are old enough to enjoy Disneyland you’ll be too darned old to want to go,” Mike observed. “It is not for the faint of heart.”

“I got a promotion,” Jack explained. “They made me the sales manager.”

“Congratulations, I think. What does that do to your paycheck” Mike asked.

“I get a piece of every car sold,” Jack said. “I should make at least \$75 in a fair year and more in a good year. They have that new H2, you know, you ought to check them out. I can get you a really good deal on one of those.”

“Jack, if I had the money to buy a Hummer, you wouldn’t have to sell it to me, all you’d have to do is the paperwork,” Mike grinned.

“You’re looking at around \$100 grand for a fully equipped H1 with all of the options,” Jack pointed out.

“I can wait,” Mike said. “If I ever have the money to buy a Hummer, I’m going for the original and not that smaller one.”

“Are Ginger and you going to adopt Tommy?” Jack asked.

“We talked it over, partner and we decided against it for now,” Mike explained. “Tommy’s getting straight A’s in school and if that holds up, he will probably want to go to college. Have you looked into what it costs to go to college these days? Anyway, we’re putting away all of the foster care money except for his allowance so he’ll have money for college.”

“I’m sure glad I got that promotion,” Jack returned to their earlier discussion. “With the economy in the toilet, cars sales aren’t what they could be. Have you noticed the price of fuel? I’m surprised we’re selling any cars at all.”

“If you want culture shock, try buying gas or diesel in California, Jack,” Mike pointed out. “They must have the highest fuel prices in the nation. It has to be all of those additives that they’re putting in their fuel.”

“I think you were right about Bush,” Jack went on. “That man is dedicated to the proposition of getting Saddam out of power. As much as I hate to say it, it looks like the US is headed into another war.”

“Do you really think that Saddam has weapons of mass destruction?” Mike asked.

“I have no idea, Mike,” Jack replied. “I do know that he gassed the Kurds but that was just after the Gulf War.”

“He did it back in ‘87, too,” Mike recalled.

“I suspect that if he does have WMD’s he’ll move them across the border into Syria,” Jack suggested. “Then when the US finally does attack the country, they won’t find a single thing to justify the invasion. It sort of reminds me of the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution.”

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On August 2, 1964, three North Vietnamese torpedo boats, mistaking the USS Maddox (DD-731) for a South Vietnamese vessel, launched a torpedo and machine gun attack on it. Responding immediately to the attack, the Maddox, with the help of air support from the nearby carrier Ticonderoga, destroyed one of the attacking boats and damaged the other two. The Maddox, suffering only superficial damage by a single machine gun bullet, retired to South Vietnamese waters where she was joined by the C. Turner Joy.

On August 4, a new DESOTO patrol to North Vietnam coast was launched by Maddox and the C. Turner Joy. The latter got radar signals that they believed to be another attack by the North Vietnamese. For some two hours the ships fired on radar targets and maneuvered vigorously amid electronic and visual reports of torpedoes. It is highly unlikely that any North Vietnamese forces were actually in the area during this gunfight. Captain John J. Herrick even admitted that it was nothing more than an *overeager sonarman who was hearing ship’s own propeller beat*. Also in 1995, General Vo Nguyen Giap, commander-in-chief of North Vietnamese forces at the time, disavowed any involvement with the August 4 incident, though he did confirm the August 2 attack.

Lyndon Johnson, who was up for election that year, launched retaliatory strikes and went on national television on August 4, 1964. Although the Maddox had been involved in providing support for South Vietnamese attacks at Hon Me and Hon Ngu, Johnson’s Secretary of Defense, Robert McNamara, went before Congress and denied that the United States Navy was supporting South Vietnamese military operations. He thus characterized the attack as *unprovoked*. Despite the fact that there was no second attack, he also claimed before Congress that there was *unequivocal proof* of an *unprovoked* second attack against the Maddox.

As a result of McNamara’s testimony, on August 7, 1964 Congress passed a Joint Resolution (H.J. RES 1145), known as the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution that facilitated increased US involvement in the Vietnam War. The House approved the Resolution unanimously (416-0), and by the Senate 88-2, with Senators Wayne Morse of Oregon and Ernest Gruening of Alaska casting the only nay votes. Although there was never a formal declaration of war, the Resolution gave President Johnson approval *to take all necessary steps, including the use of armed force, to assist any member or protocol state of the Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty requesting assistance in defense of its freedom*. Both Johnson and President Richard Nixon used the Resolution as a justification for escalated involvement in Indochina.

Sound familiar? Nah, George W. Bush is a Republican.

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“Did they ever figure out if the North Vietnamese actually fired on the Maddox?” Mike asked.

“Apparently what happened on August 2nd, happened as described; but they were chasing ghosts on August 4th,” Jack replied. “I saw some program about it on the History Channel.”

“If we’d just been 2-3 years younger, we could have avoided it entirely, Jack,” Mike mused.

“Mike, when the President of these United States makes his mind up to go to war, it invariably happens,” Jack replied. “They’re still arguing whether or not Roosevelt withheld knowledge of Pearl Harbor in order to get us into WW II.”

“I sure hope it’s over before Tommy and Juan turn 18,” Mike said.

“I think that it’s hard to say, Mike,” Jack reflected. “They didn’t go all of the way to Baghdad in the Gulf War. It could have been a whole lot different if they had. We might have had another Vietnam. Say, Ginger told Shelia that you stopped in Ventura and picked up Christmas presents for Tommy and Juan. What did you get them, if I may ask?”

“They had 2 of the Recon Scouts with the 7½” blades in their outlet,” Mike replied. “They’re perfectly fine and just have a little mar on the finish. The Recon Scout is a smaller version of their Trail Master Bowie. But that Trail Master has a 9½” blade and a shorter blade is a better knife. You saw those Randall knives that I got for my birthday didn’t you? They’re extremely nice knives but the blades are so big that they’re strictly fighting knives.”

“I sure hope that we never need to use a fighting knife,” Jack laughed.

“We ought to be thinking more about the future, Jack,” Mike replied. “This is a very good location and we’re well prepared except for one thing. Did it ever occur to you what we’d actually do if TSHTF? There is nothing between our homes and the road. Now if someone were coming out of Flagstaff, and got past Sedona, they’d be right in our laps with nothing between us and them.”

“Do you have any ideas about what we could do?” Jack asked.

“We need something to slow them down at the road and keep them from entering our property,” Mike replied. “Maybe something like a mesh fence would be a good start.”

“Man, that would take a lot of posts and fabric,” Jack opined.



“Why couldn’t we look around the Phoenix area and see if we could find some government surplus fencing?” Mike asked. “We could always slap on a coat of Rust-Oleum on it to make it look new.”

“How are you going to pay for something like that?” Jack asked. “You must have spent a fortune on that trip to California.”

“There’s that college fund of Tommy’s and we could always reimburse that by selling gold,” Mike pointed out. “I think I’ll talk to Ginger about the possibility of doing just that.”

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The property was 80 acres and was rectangular. The road frontage was  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile and the long side from ‘east-to-west’ was  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile. Mike figured out that if they were to fence the entire property, they would need  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles of fencing. He looked on the Internet and new 84” height 2” chain link fence mesh ran about \$325 per 100’. If his math were right, they’d need 79 spools of wire. The wire alone would cost them about \$26,000. Plus, they would need approximately 792 posts, at least one gate, probably 2, and all of the accessories to install the fence. For a 7’ high fence, they’d need 9’ line posts and 9’6” end posts. Both ran about \$30 each and that meant another \$24,000 for posts. Mike was up to \$50k and that didn’t include the labor or the miscellaneous items to install the fence. Even if he could get government surplus fencing, he had no idea how cheaply he could buy it. Mike also figured that they probably have to get the fence professionally installed and that would probably double the cost. The money in Tommy’s account was only about 20% of what he was estimating a new fence would cost. And, even if he bought good used fence, he still had the installation problem.

If Jack and Shelia paid  $\frac{1}{2}$  the cost of the fence, they didn’t have any available cash either, not with 3 children to raise and all of Shelia’s money sitting in the safe in their basement. Mike kept a list of things that he wanted that they couldn’t afford. Number 1 on the list was the H1. He added the fencing to the list and figured he might as well think in terms of new fencing and maybe even a barbed wire top. Unless the price of gold jumped one of these days, nothing on that list would ever get purchased. Foster care paid very well, but that money was being set aside for Tommy’s education. And, with only 6 more years to add to the college fund, there might not be enough money to send Tommy to the school of his choice.

This whole business of being prepared could very get complicated when you began to think of the long-term and the things that you’d never considered before. Jack and he were very well prepared, provided that they didn’t have any security problems. And, while they had a fair number of weapons and plenty of ammunition, they couldn’t shoot all of their neighbors if TSHTF. It wasn’t as if they had guard towers every quarter mile with Ma Deuces mounted. This being Arizona, they could always buy a Ma Deuce at about 5 times what they cost the government, presuming they could even find one. But,

there were only 6 adults and 7 children on the 80 acres. That wasn't a very large group of people to protect  $\frac{1}{8}$  section of ground.

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Monday, September 2, 2002...

"I looked into what it would take to fence in the 80 acres," Mike told Jack.

"What did you come up with?" Jack asked.

"A headache, Jack," Mike shook his head. "We're looking at maybe \$100 thousand dollars to put a 7' high fence around the entire 80 acres. Even if we bought used materials, I couldn't work on the fence and you couldn't give up your day job. I added it to the list of things I'll buy if we ever get rich."

"Gold closed at about \$312 on Friday," Jack said. "That doesn't help much does it?"

"I expect that our wives won't let loose of that gold until they get the price they want, so no, not really," Mike agreed.

"We're a whole lot closer to war than we were on Independence Day, you know that don't you?" Jack asked.

"I'm convinced that it is a question of when, not if, Jack," Mike replied. "They're raising the Threat Level because of the anniversary of the attacks."

"That's another thing, pal," Jack said. "What are those terrorists going to do if we do attack Iraq?"

"I have no idea, but I can tell you that they couldn't find bin Laden with both hands and a flashlight."

"Do they have any idea where he is?" Jack asked.

"I doubt it," Mike replied.

"Do the kids start back to school tomorrow?" Jack asked.

"That's right, Jack, but Juan and Tommy will be in Middle School," Mike acknowledged.

"You ought to get Tommy a shotgun for his birthday," Jack suggested.

"Now there's a thought," Mike replied. "I hadn't even thought about his birthday. Any ideas about what I should get him?"

“Conventional wisdom usually gets a boy a .410 as his first shotgun, but if it were up to me, I’d go with a 20-gauge,” Jack replied.

“Remington has a 20-gauge Express Combo with a 28” barrel with a vent rib and the Rem Choke and a 20” barrel in improved cylinder with rifle sights,” Mike said. “They have them in the gun store up in Flagstaff.”

“I think that that’s the way I’d go, Mike,” Jack suggested.

“Yeah, I agree, Jack. I’ll run it by Ginger,” Mike said.

“You almost spoil Juan like he’s your boy too, are you going to buy him a 20-gauge?” Jack asked.

“I think maybe I should leave that up to Jose and Maria,” Mike replied. “I got him started with the Winchester rifle and a couple of knives, but his folks should decide matters like that.”

“Say, Mike, do you have any idea what Jose has for firearms?” Jack asked.

“He has that Colt .45 and the Winchester we bought him but other than that I have no idea, why?” Mike asked.

“Do you think that maybe we should buy him a M16 or a shotgun or something?” Jack asked.

“Not knowing what he has, I couldn’t answer that,” Mike replied. “But, we have my Super Match, 2 M16s and Ginger’s AR-15, so I’d have something I could let him use. As far as that goes, you have enough firearms to furnish an infantry squad so I don’t really see the point in tying more money up in guns we’ll probably never use.”

“You didn’t used to feel that way,” Jack laughed.

“I didn’t used to be married and have a son to take care of either,” Mike pointed out. “Besides, all of that tromping around at those amusement parks back in June reminded me that I’m disabled.”

“Your back still giving you trouble?” Jack asked.

“No, not really, but, I was reminded that I’m not a kid anymore,” Mike explained. “Remember when we were 20 years old and bulletproof?”

“That didn’t really survive the first firefight we got into in Nam,” Jack remembered.

“True, I hadn’t realized how much blood there is in a human body until we took our first casualties,” Mike agreed. “Speaking of which, Ginger is studying because she’s up for recertification as a Paramedic.”

“So soon?” Jack reacted.

“She isn’t due yet, but she started studying,” Mike explained. “She thinks it will be easier that way.”

“Bush is really pushing Congress isn’t he?” Jack asked rhetorically.

“Yep. It seems to me that he’s going for his own version of the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution,” Mike suggested.

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The Joint Resolution to Authorize the Use of United States Armed Forces Against Iraq (H.J.Res. 114) was a resolution passed in October 2002 by the United States Congress authorizing what was soon to become the 2003 Invasion of Iraq under the War Powers Resolution. The authorization was sought by US President George W. Bush, and it passed the House by a vote of 296-133 and the Senate by a vote of 77-23, receiving significant support from both major political parties. It was signed into law by President Bush on October 16, 2002.

The act cited several factors to justify a war:

- Iraq’s noncompliance with the conditions of the 1991 cease-fire
- Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction, and programs to develop such weapons, posed a “threat to the national security of the United States and international peace and security in the Persian Gulf region”
- Iraq’s “brutal repression of its civilian population”
- Iraq’s “capability and willingness to use weapons of mass destruction against other nations and its own people”
- Iraq’s hostility towards the United States as demonstrated by the 1993 assassination attempt of George Bush Sr., and firing on coalition aircraft enforcing the no-fly zones following the 1991 Gulf War
- Iraq’s connection to terrorist groups, including Al Qaeda
- Fear that Iraq would provide weapons of mass destruction to terrorists for use against the United States

The act praised President Bush’s diplomatic efforts at the UN Security Council to *obtain prompt and decisive action by the Security Council to ensure that Iraq abandons its strategy of delay, evasion and noncompliance and promptly and strictly complies with all relevant Security Council resolutions*. It authorized him to *use military force to defend the national security of the United States against the continuing threat posed by Iraq; and enforce all relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions regarding Iraq*. Be-

fore being permitted to use force, the President was required to determine that further diplomatic efforts alone would not satisfactorily protect the United States or ensure Iraq's compliance with UNSC resolutions.

The act was significant in that it did not require the President to obtain UN Security Council authorization. Further, even if Iraq complied with UNSC resolutions, the President was still authorized to attack in order to protect the United States. This was, in effect, approval for Bush to act unilaterally. This was viewed among American conservatives as a major impetus for the UNSC's unanimous adoption of resolution 1441 a few weeks later.

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There were 38 years and 6 Presidents (Johnson, *Nixon*, *Ford*, *Carter*, *Reagan*, *Bush Sr.*, *Clinton*, and *Bush Jr.*) between the two Congressional Resolutions but both Mike and Jack felt that the US President and Congress were pushing the nation into another war in response to the attack on the country on September 11, 2001. The Congressional Resolution came on the heels of the Bali terrorist bombing on October 12, 2002 in the town of Kuta on the Indonesian island of Bali, killing 202 people and injuring a further 209, most of whom were foreign tourists. It is considered the deadliest act of terrorism in Indonesian history. The bombing, in which 7 Americans died, was linked through Jemaah Islamiyah to al Qaeda.

2002 was a tough year with a total of 13 terrorist attacks not including the numerous Palestinian attacks against the Israelis. When the US Congress passed its resolution, the world wasn't even done counting. During the remainder of October, 2002 3 more terrorist events occurred including the October 17th bombing in the Philippines, the October 19th car bombing in Moscow and the October 23rd Moscow theatre crisis. 140 hostages and 40 terrorists were killed during the rescue attempt on October 26th. Before the year ended, on November 28th, 3 suicide bombers detonated themselves at a hotel in Mombasa, Kenya and on the same day, two anti-aircraft missiles were fired at an Arkia Boeing 757 airliner, which only narrowly missed. The two attacks (2002 Mombasa attacks) were suspected to be connected, and it was suspected that al Qaeda might be involved in the attacks.

## Guys and Dolls – Chapter 13 – The New War

Christmas 2002...

After further reflection, Mike decided to give Tommy the Recon Scout for his birthday and save the new Remington shotgun for Christmas. So, for Christmas, Tommy got the shotgun and Juan got his Recon Scout. Admittedly Ginger and he, mostly he, were spoiling Tommy a little, but from another point of view they were giving Tommy something he'd never had before, love. Mike wasn't worried about it because Tommy was turning into a fine young man. He was 13 years old and about 5'8" tall. One of these days he might pass Mike in height.

It turned out that Jose had a Remington model 870 shotgun so Jack and Mike got Jose a 20" barrel and magazine extension, upgrading the shotgun to a combo. Gold had hit \$350 and with the economy still in bad shape, it appeared that it might hit \$400 before the coming year was over. With that in mind, Jack and Mike discussed what they'd do about securing the 80 acres. By the time that discussion ended, they had decided to put in a new 84" fence topped by barbed wire facing outward. They could put in a single gate in the front and a second in the back. To stop vehicles from entering the property, they'd put in a cattle guard that they could pull the grate from. When they had the money.

Since it didn't look like fuel prices were going down, they also agreed that their security project would include adding a second 40,000-gallon diesel tank to the 40,000-gallon tank they already had. These were truck stop sized tanks and with that much fuel on hand they could weather the price changes that would inevitably come when Bush started his war in Iraq. Oh yeah, they made a lot of plans for the money the gals might get if they ever sold the gold. Jack had an opportunity to pick up 2 more M16A2s and he bought them and added them to his inventory of firearms.

A week later, Mike turned 55. He got a most unusual birthday present, too. Ginger and Tommy had gotten together and purchased him a new Vaquero .45 with a 7½" barrel. They also gave him a belated Christmas present that went with the new revolver, a Fitzpatrick Laredoan gun belt and holster. Tommy had purchased the holster as a combination Christmas/Birthday present and Ginger had purchased the Ruger revolver. Ginger and Tommy had purchased the double rig, but put up the second holster for next Christmas when they intended to give Mike a second Ruger with a 4⅝" barrel. In truth, Ginger had bought both of the revolvers but the second gun and its companion holster were put up for the following year.

One might suspect that Tommy was thinking about those Rugers with the 5½" barrels that Mike had in his gun safe, but who could say for sure? The only time that Mike ever wore the Ruger was when they went on one of their cross-county camping trips out in the desert anyway. They'd done that in July and August and Tommy and Juan were becoming quite proficient at both handling the horses and setting up a camp. Juan was

teaching Tommy Spanish and Tommy was becoming good with that, too. It sort of gave him a leg up when he'd have to take a foreign language in High School.

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On January 24th, Tom Ridge was sworn in as the Secretary of the new Department of Homeland Security. During his State of the Union Speech on January 28th, President Bush said:

*Twelve years ago, Saddam Hussein faced the prospect of being the last casualty in a war he had started and lost. To spare himself, he agreed to disarm of all weapons of mass destruction. For the next 12 years, he systematically violated that agreement. He pursued chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons, even while inspectors were in his country. Nothing to date has restrained him from his pursuit of these weapons – not economic sanctions, not isolation from the civilized world, not even cruise missile strikes on his military facilities.*

*Almost three months ago, the United Nations Security Council gave Saddam Hussein his final chance to disarm. He has shown instead utter contempt for the United Nations, and for the opinion of the world. The 108 UN inspectors were sent to conduct – were not sent to conduct a scavenger hunt for hidden materials across a country the size of California. The job of the inspectors is to verify that Iraq's regime is disarming. It is up to Iraq to show exactly where it is hiding its banned weapons, lay those weapons out for the world to see, and destroy them as directed. Nothing like this has happened.*

*The United Nations concluded in 1999 that Saddam Hussein had biological weapons sufficient to produce over 25,000 liters of anthrax – enough doses to kill several million people. He hasn't accounted for that material. He's given no evidence that he has destroyed it.*

*The United Nations concluded that Saddam Hussein had materials sufficient to produce more than 38,000 liters of botulinum toxin – enough to subject millions of people to death by respiratory failure. He hadn't accounted for that material. He's given no evidence that he has destroyed it.*

*Our intelligence officials estimate that Saddam Hussein had the materials to produce as much as 500 tons of sarin, mustard and VX nerve agent. In such quantities, these chemical agents could also kill untold thousands. He's not accounted for these materials. He has given no evidence that he has destroyed them.*

*US intelligence indicates that Saddam Hussein had upwards of 30,000 munitions capable of delivering chemical agents. Inspectors recently turned up 16 of them – despite Iraq's recent declaration denying their existence. Saddam Hussein has not accounted for the remaining 29,984 of these prohibited munitions. He's given no evidence that he has destroyed them.*

*From three Iraqi defectors we know that Iraq, in the late 1990s, had several mobile biological weapons labs. These are designed to produce germ warfare agents, and can be moved from place to a place to evade inspectors. Saddam Hussein has not disclosed these facilities. He's given no evidence that he has destroyed them.*

*The International Atomic Energy Agency confirmed in the 1990s that Saddam Hussein had an advanced nuclear weapons development program, had a design for a nuclear weapon and was working on five different methods of enriching uranium for a bomb. The British government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa. Our intelligence sources tell us that he has attempted to purchase high-strength aluminum tubes suitable for nuclear weapons production. Saddam Hussein has not credibly explained these activities. He clearly has much to hide.*

*The dictator of Iraq is not disarming. To the contrary, he is deceiving. From intelligence sources we know, for instance, that thousands of Iraqi security personnel are at work hiding documents and materials from the UN inspectors, sanitizing inspection sites and monitoring the inspectors themselves. Iraqi officials accompany the inspectors in order to intimidate witnesses.*

Bush went on to say:

*The world has waited 12 years for Iraq to disarm. America will not accept a serious and mounting threat to our country, and our friends and our allies. The United States will ask the UN Security Council to convene on February the 5th to consider the facts of Iraq's ongoing defiance of the world. Secretary of State Powell will present information and intelligence about Iraq's legal – Iraq's illegal weapons programs, its attempt to hide those weapons from inspectors, and its links to terrorist groups.*

*We will consult. But let there be no misunderstanding: If Saddam Hussein does not fully disarm, for the safety of our people and for the peace of the world, we will lead a coalition to disarm him.*

“So will Saddam disarm?” Jack asked.

“He probably already has Jack,” Mike shook his head. “What did the truth ever have to do with anything? “Bush already has his mind made up and most of the troops are in place. Make no mistake, we are going to war.”

“Gold is still going up, it hit \$368 on Monday,” Jack pointed out.

“It can't hit \$400 soon enough,” Mike said. “How long do you think it would take a contractor to put in that fence we discussed?”

“The best way to find out is to call one and asked him,” Jack replied. “Get him to make a bid when the price gets close to \$400.”



“I think that I might just do that. What else can we do?” Mike asked.

“Well, if you’re talking about something that doesn’t cost much money, I suppose we could dig some fighting positions,” Jack replied. “Have a talk with Jose and see if he knows where we could pick up some cheap labor.”

“What did you have in mind, Jack?” Mike asked.

“We could get them to cut a trench around the houses and maybe pile the dirt in front of the trench,” Jack suggested.

“Or, we could put the dirt in sandbags,” Mike retorted.

“Nah, that would be a little obvious, wouldn’t it? I was thinking more in terms of landscaping the dirt,” Jack countered. “We could get them to stack up some of that red rock and make it look like a landscaping fence.”

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“Anyway, Jose, that’s what Jack proposed, what do you think we can accomplish?” Mike asked Jose.

“There is not much work this time of year, Mike,” Jose replied. “I have a cousin down in Phoenix in the landscaping business. From time to time, he picks up some day labor off the street corners when he needs a few strong backs. I could talk to him for you and see if he’d be interested.”

“But you do understand what Jack and I want, right?” Mike asked.

“I don’t think it will be much of a problem and you men could cut a passageway into the stairs leading to your basements if you wanted,” Jose suggested.

“Hmm, I can’t visualize that Jose, explain what you mean,” Mike asked.

“Well, if you cut a hole in the wall at the basement level and put in a concrete storm pipe, you could have a manhole cover in the trench,” Jose explained. Depending on how you constructed it, there wouldn’t be any obvious signs of an alternate entrance into the basement. If you don’t do something like that, we would be exposing ourselves when we came out in case we ever had to use the basement shelter.”

“I’m still not sure that I understand, but talk it over with your cousin and see what the two of you can come up with,” Mike suggested.

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Monday, March 17, 2003...

At 8:01pm EST, President George W. Bush addressed the nation:

*Our government is on heightened watch against these dangers. Just as we are preparing to ensure victory in Iraq, we are taking further actions to protect our homeland. In recent days, American authorities have expelled from the country certain individuals with ties to Iraqi intelligence services. Among other measures, I have directed additional security of our airports, and increased Coast Guard patrols of major seaports. The Department of Homeland Security is working closely with the nation's governors to increase armed security at critical facilities across America.*

*Should enemies strike our country, they would be attempting to shift our attention with panic and weaken our morale with fear. In this, they would fail. No act of theirs can alter the course or shake the resolve of this country. We are a peaceful people – yet we're not a fragile people, and we will not be intimidated by thugs and killers. If our enemies dare to strike us, they and all who have aided them, will face fearful consequences.*

*We are now acting because the risks of inaction would be far greater. In one year, or five years, the power of Iraq to inflict harm on all free nations would be multiplied many times over. With these capabilities, Saddam Hussein and his terrorist allies could choose the moment of deadly conflict when they are strongest. We choose to meet that threat now, where it arises, before it can appear suddenly in our skies and cities.*

*The cause of peace requires all free nations to recognize new and undeniable realities. In the 20th century, some chose to appease murderous dictators, whose threats were allowed to grow into genocide and global war. In this century, when evil men plot chemical, biological and nuclear terror, a policy of appeasement could bring destruction of a kind never before seen on this earth.*

*Terrorists and terror states do not reveal these threats with fair notice, in formal declarations – and responding to such enemies only after they have struck first is not self-defense, it is suicide. The security of the world requires disarming Saddam Hussein now.*

*As we enforce the just demands of the world, we will also honor the deepest commitments of our country. Unlike Saddam Hussein, we believe the Iraqi people are deserving and capable of human liberty. And when the dictator has departed, they can set an example to all the Middle East of a vital and peaceful and self-governing nation.*

Bush had just given Saddam Hussein 48 hours to abdicate power. Hussein didn't.

At approximately 02:30 UTC or about 90 minutes after the lapse of the 48-hour deadline, at 05:30 local time, explosions were heard in Baghdad. At 03:15 UTC, or 10:15 pm EST, US President George W. Bush announced that he had ordered the coalition to launch an *attack of opportunity* against targets in Iraq. Approximately 250,000 United

States troops, with support from 45,000 British, 2,000 Australian and 200 Polish, and approximately 900 Spanish combat forces, entered Iraq primarily through their staging area in Kuwait. Plans for an invasion force from the north were abandoned when Turkey officially refused the use of its territory for such purposes. Coalition forces also supported Iraqi Kurdish militia troops, estimated to number upwards of 50,000.

The invasion was swift, with the collapse of the Iraq government and the military of Iraq in about three weeks. The oil infrastructure of Iraq was rapidly secured with limited damage in that time. Securing the oil infrastructure was considered important. In the first Persian Gulf War, while retreating from Kuwait, the Iraqi army had set many oil wells on fire, in an attempt to disguise troop movements and to distract Coalition forces – a side effect of these actions were many environmental problems. Presumably, oil infrastructure was secured for financial reasons as well as strategic.

During the 12 years between the liberation of Kuwait and this second Gulf War, the United States had developed a whole new generation of precision weapons. During the Gulf War, General Norman Schwarzkopf had carefully selected photos and films/tapes of successful attacks using the smart weapons. During the latest conflict, General Tommy Franks didn't have that problem. The new generations of weapons were very accurate and extremely deadly.

About the only things that changed was that Donald Rumsfeld replaced Dick Cheney and General Richard Myers replaced General Colin Powell. The coalition forces kicked butt and took names and 3 weeks later were in Baghdad. During the Gulf War, coalition forces suffered about 378 deaths. During the 6 weeks ended April 30, 2003, there were 172 fatalities, 139 US and 33 from the UK. Estimates of Iraqi fatalities ranged as high as 100,000 but were probably more like half of that.

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May 1, 2003...

On May 1, 2003 George W. Bush landed on the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln, in a Lockheed S-3 Viking, where he gave a speech announcing the end of major combat operations in the Iraq war. Clearly visible in the background was a banner stating **Mission Accomplished**. Bush's landing was criticized by opponents as an overly theatrical and expensive stunt. Bush was right, we'd won the war; we hadn't won the peace.

Iraq was one of those countries around the world where you could buy an AK-47 or a RPG-7 on a street corner. There were a lot of those weapons in the country. In the months that followed, coalition forces tried to restore order to Iraq. Their efforts were hampered by a group later to become known as 'insurgents'. No doubt the group included former military forces and it most certainly included foreigners. America learned another name, Abu Musab al-Zargawi.

In Sedona, Arizona, the landscaping project had been completed. At the bottom of the ramp, a hole had been cut into the wall of the passageway right where it turned. On the other side of the wall was a concrete pipe that ascended a few feet to a manhole cover that was locked from the inside. The manhole was in the trench they constructed and covered with a little soil. Jim had installed the setup and he'd spring loaded the cover just like he'd spring loaded the doors. They'd gotten by cheap and Jose's cousin probably used Illegals, but he'd hired them and paid them and they did the project on a contract so it was his problem and not theirs.

During January, gold had hit \$369.90 and in February, it went to \$382.10 but in March it fell to \$354.70 and in April it was down to \$336.75. So close had the price come to the \$400 mark, that Mike had gotten an estimate on the fence from a contractor. It was during May, after Bush's speech from the Abraham Lincoln that Ginger and Mike talked about the fence and the price of gold.

"So close and yet so far," Mike observed.

"What are you talking about honey?" Ginger asked.

"The price of gold," Mike replied. "Both Shelia and you have maintained that you were going to sell when it hit \$400 an ounce. Jack and I have been looking at our security arrangements and those trenches around the homes are part of a 2-stage system to protect our homes if TSHTF."

"What's the second stage?" Ginger asked.

"A fence around the entire 80 acres 7' high with barbed wire on top," Mike explained.

"It sounds to me like you 2 want to turn the acreage into an armed camp," Ginger laughed.

"It already is an armed camp we just don't have anything between them and us," Mike pointed out.

"Don't start spending the gold just yet, Mike," Ginger continued. "Shelia and I talked it over and we are going to sell when we can clear \$150 per ounce before taxes."

"How much did you pay for the gold?" Mike asked.

"\$252.85," she replied.

"So you will sell when it hits \$402.85?"

"No, I said clear \$150 per ounce," Ginger replied. "You'd better figure on about \$412.85, give or take."

“Are you still planning on selling half of the gold when you sell?” Mike asked.

“We changed our minds on that and have decided to sell  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the gold and keep 800 coins,” she responded.

“So that means that before taxes, you’d have \$402.85 times about 1,600 clear, right?” he asked.

“That’s right and we’d still have 800 times \$412.85 on hand,” Ginger said. “Don’t bother to do the math, Mike. We’d clear \$644,560 each and have another \$322,280, net on hand. What would the fence cost?”

“Half of \$125,000, give or take,” Mike replied. “But I’ll have to tell you Ginger, there are some other things on my list. Jack and I talked about putting in a second 40,000-gallon diesel tank and I sure would like to have a Hummer.”

“How much does a Hummer cost?” Ginger asked.

“They’re very expensive, honey, probably \$100,000,” Mike answered. “But, the fence and fuel come first and if there’s any money left over, we can talk about the Hummer.”

“Just out of curiosity, what color of Hummer would you want?” Ginger asked.

“Probably metallic sand,” Mike replied. “It would fit in the best with the landscape. And the model I’d like is the wagon.”

“Maybe someday,” Ginger laughed.

THUD!!! (Sorry, it’s the best I can do at reproducing the sound of Mike’s heart dropping.)

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For his birthday present on November 15, 2003, Tommy received a Winchester rifle in .45 Colt with a 24” barrel. By this time, Tommy had Mike figured out and he was thinking more about the Ruger with the 5½” barrel than the rifle. Tommy was now 14 years old. He also knew to keep his mouth shut and let Mike do whatever Mike was going to do. He didn’t know about the Glock 23 that Mike had put away against a rainy day when TSHTF.

Gold hit a high of \$398.38 in November 2003.

Ginger’s parents came out to Sedona for the Thanksgiving holiday. Mike and Ginger’s Dad got along very well, but they avoided talking about politics and religion. Ginger’s Dad, Herb, was wound up like an 8-day clock over the situation in Afghanistan and Iraq. Afghanistan, Herb said, was going ok, but the situation in Iraq left a lot to be desired. The death toll during the occupation had continued to rise and Herb was of the mind

that the US and its allies should pull out all of their troops and nuke the Middle East. I guess it would be fair to say that Ginger favored her Dad more than her mother when it came to politics.

Mike about half agreed with Herb, but using nuclear weapons is awfully easy to talk about when you've never been in the military. The 3 largest nuclear powers in the world in 2003 were the US, Russia and China. There could be no doubt that, were the US to do what Herb was suggesting, the US would end up glowing in the dark. The others would too, but that probably meant that France would end up in charge along with their new buddies, the Germans. That was too awful a thought to even contemplate.

They were fast approaching the Christmas season. You had to give Bush a little credit, at least he had enough class to fly to Iraq and spend Thanksgiving with the troops. He had a few words to say to them and ended it up with:

*On this Thanksgiving, our nation remembers the men and women of our military, your friends and comrades who paid the ultimate price for our security and freedom. We ask for God's blessings on their families, their loved ones and their friends, and we pray for your safety and your strength, as you continue to defend America and to spread freedom.*

*Each one of you has answered a great call, participating in an historic moment in world history. You live by a code of honor, of service to your nation, with the safety and the security of your fellow citizens. Our military is full of the finest people on the face of the earth. I'm proud to be your Commander-in-Chief. I bring greetings from America. May God bless you all.*

Pretty gutsy but the liberal media would probably rake George over the coals, somehow. The Democrat Party was in full swing, too, trying to paint Bush as the bad guy instead of Saddam Hussein.

Speaking of which, on December 13th there was a news flash on TV saying that they'd caught Saddam in a hole in the ground near Tikrit as a part of Operation Red Dawn. Soldiers entered two sites (codenamed Wolverine 1 and Wolverine 2) outside the village of but failed initially to find Saddam. A subsequent cordon and search operation found the fugitive dictator hiding in a so-called "spider hole" at a small mud-walled compound. He was taken into custody at 20:30 local time. He was armed with a pistol, but offered no resistance during his capture. The soldiers also found two AK-47 rifles, US\$ 750,000 in \$100 bills, Mars bars, a stash of SPAM (a food prohibited under Muslim Halal), and a white and orange taxicab. Two Iraqis, believed to be Saddam's former cook Qais Namuk and his brother, were also taken into custody. Saddam was later moved to an undisclosed location as soldiers continued to search the area.

The name of the operation, Red Dawn, apparently comes from the title of a 1984 film directed by John Milius, in which a group of American teenagers band together to commit sabotage and terrorism in their Colorado town against invading Soviet forces. The

teenagers, whose leader was portrayed by a young Patrick Swayze, called themselves the “Wolverines” – the name given to the targets of the US forces in ad-Dawr. Incidentally, this was also the codename of a mission of the Soviets during warfare, in which they tried to expand the borders of communist Russia by mass military means.

Old Saddam really needed a shave and a haircut, too. One might have thought that with  $\frac{3}{4}$  million dollars on hand he could have had one. Man, did that give the Demos some ammo. A Democrat claimed that GWB even timed the capture of Saddam just to get some political mileage out of it. GWB would have had one hell of a lot more mileage if they had managed to catch Saddam in one of his bunkers in Baghdad. It appeared that the former governor of Vermont, Howard Dean was the leading Democrat candidate.

Dean began his campaign by emphasizing health care and fiscal responsibility, and championing grassroots fundraising as a way to fight special interests. However, his opposition to the US plan to invade Iraq (and his forceful criticism of Democrats in Congress who voted to authorize the use of force) quickly eclipsed other issues, resonating with disillusioned Democrats and using momentum from the burgeoning anti-war movement to build an impressive online campaign. Dean’s early slogan of representing *the Democratic wing of the Democratic Party* reflected the feeling among frustrated voters that Democrats hadn’t done enough to question the policies of the Republicans.

Dean received the endorsement of former Vice President and presidential candidate Al Gore, on December 9, 2003 when Gore loaned him his Internet to use in his campaign. In the following weeks Dean was endorsed by former US senators Bill Bradley and Carol Moseley Braun, unsuccessful Democratic presidential candidates from the 2000 and 2004 primaries, respectively. Many pundits would blame such endorsements for the campaign’s eventual collapse. Dean was running as an outsider, and accepting the support of such establishment figures was seen by some as hypocritical. Dean lost the Iowa Caucuses and the Democrats had a new candidate by the name of John Kerry. On January 27 Dean again suffered a defeat, finishing second to Kerry in the New Hampshire primary. As late as one week before the first votes were cast in Iowa’s caucuses, Dean had enjoyed a 30% lead in New Hampshire opinion polls; accordingly, this loss represented another major setback to his campaign. Dean should have gone to Iraq and eaten turkey.

## Guys and Dolls – Chapter 14 – Election 2004

Christmas 2003...

I was so busy bashing Howard Dean that I got a little ahead of the story. Tommy got the 5½” Vaquero and the leather and Mike got the new 4⅝” Vaquero and the crossdraw holster. On December 30, 2003, gold hit \$416.25 and Shelia and Ginger unloaded a total of 3,200 troy ounces. They didn't know that on Thursday December 2, 2004, gold would hit \$454.20 per ounce, but that was beside the point. It could have just as easily fallen as it had so many times before. On January 1, 2004, they had a birthday party but Mike didn't get any presents besides another bottle of Scotch from Jack. Instead, he got a card that said 'IOU one birthday present.'

Ginger and Shelia got together and discussed both the fence and the new 40,000-gallon diesel tank. These they went ahead and ordered when the settlement came in. Ginger had a long talk with Jack about something and Jack told her that he'd take care of it. Have you priced one? The full price of a Hummer H1 (MSRP \$140,000+) was a whole lot more than \$100,000. I guess it helped to have your best friend being the Sales Manager of an auto dealership, huh? There is one hell of a markup in motor vehicles and never let anyone tell you anything different. They mostly get you on the accessories.

I regret to inform you that Mike didn't get a metallic sand colored H1 with every possible option and accessory. If you go to the GMAC Hummer website, you'll quickly realize what I mean. Look at the pictures of the Hummer H1s and you will see a picture of a metallic sand colored Hummer H1 probably taken somewhere around Sedona, Arizona. It's red rock county. Mike's new Hummer was painted in a military camouflage scheme that allowed it blend right in with the desert in the Sedona area. It was the darnedest thing you ever saw, when you could see it. Ginger knew her men. The only difference between a man and a boy was the price of his toy.

I can also tell you that it took the contractor the better part of a month to put in 1½ miles of fence and he hired extra help. That cost more than they planned, too. The diesel tank didn't but the fuel did. Tommy's report card was straight A's again and rather than buying him a present, Ginger put some extra money into his college fund. She'd gone back and added up every A he'd gotten since he moved in with them and added \$1,000 per. It must be nice to have money. (I saw some once.)

All of the fuel was stabilized with PRI-D and extra PRI-D was stored for future use. Jack wasn't far behind Mike in the motor vehicle department either. The dealership repossessed a H1 when the new owner couldn't keep up the payments. Shelia let him buy it but only because he could get such a good price. To look at that acreage there south of Sedona, one would have thought that a bunch of Yuppies lived there. But the folks on the acreage weren't Yuppies; they were just reaping the seeds of some fruitful investments.

"I guess that we're about as ready as we can be for the crap to hit the fan," Jack offered.



“Probably Jack but we should have alternatives,” Mike suggested.

“Am I missing something?” Jack asked.

“Not necessarily but what would we do if the acreage became untenable?” Mike asked back.

“As in...?” Jack asked.

“As in there’s a thousand guys on our front door and all of them are armed to the teeth,” Mike said.

“If that were the case we’d have to bugout,” Jack responded.

“And go where?” Mike asked. “We have more than enough food and ammo, but it’s all in those shelters of ours. Do you really think that if a bunch of thugs showed up they’d wait while we loaded up some things so we could bugout?”

“I suppose we should cache some things somewhere else just in case, huh?” Jack asked.

“Jack, if we could go cross-country and make it to 462 then we could make it to those lakes northeast of Mormon Lake,” Mike explained.

“Have you ever been to the area?” Jack asked.

“The boys and I have gone camping there a couple of times,” Mike replied. “It’s rugged country but we could get our Hummer’s in there if we had to. Of course we’d be better off if we had horses when we got there. Maybe we should buy more horse trailers.”

“We already have 2 horse trailers,” Jack pointed out.

“True but we wouldn’t need anything fancy, just something serviceable,” Mike pointed out. “I’ll keep my eye on the paper for used horse trailers. Meanwhile, how about we hop in my Hummer and drive over to the lake so I can show the place I have in mind?”

“Let’s go,” Jack agreed.

This wasn’t some sort of cross-country expedition, so they took 179 to I-17, and then north to 462. Maybe 45 minutes to an hour later, they were at the site that Mike had in mind.

“You were right, we can get a Hummer in here but my God, what a chore it would be to come cross-country from the ranch,” Jack exclaimed. “I think we’d be better off to make the trip on horseback and leave the Hummers home.”

“Jack that’s exactly why I brought you over here so you could see for yourself,” Mike agreed.

“We’d have to cache about everything we’d need except the weapons,” Jack suggested.

“I’d have to agree with that. Now if we can find a good location to cache some supplies we’d be home free,” Mike said. “We usually camp over there.”

“Good position and we could defend it if we had to,” Jack opined.

“I figure that we could hide the vehicles behind the hill about a mile east of the ranch,” Mike continued

“I know where you mean, no one would ever think to look there for vehicles, Mike,” Jack agreed, “And if we got some cammo netting it wouldn’t take more than 30 minutes to hide them completely. How much food do you think we should cache?”

“If we keep 13 of the one year supplies in our shelters, we could move the rest over here along with enough ammo and other supplies to keep us going about 4-6 months,” Mike suggested.

“Who are you going to get to help you? The way your back is you sure can’t move the stuff,” Jack pointed out.

“There are 2 14-year old boys who might find it to be quite an adventure,” Mike laughed.

“True, but I’d feel a whole lot better if Juan had a Winchester and a Colt,” Jack hesitated.

“I’ll talk to Ginger,” Mike suggested.

“Shelia and I can go halves,” Jack offered.

“For no more money than is involved, I’ll get the rifle and revolver as a joint gift from both families for his birthday,” Mike said.

“Add one of those 20-gauge Remington 870 combos,” Jack said. “There’s no reason why both boys shouldn’t have the same equipment.”

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Sedona Airport (KSEZ) was located 2 miles SW of Sedona. It has a 5,132’ asphalt runway in good condition. It also has a helipad. The elevation at the airport was 4,736 for runway 3 and 4,830 for runway 21, which is to say the runway ran downhill. The airport

had 100LL and Jet Fuel-A available but only operated from dawn to dusk because the only light available was the beacon.

The suburb of West Sedona had its streets named after the movies that had been made in Sedona. Mike liked that John Wayne movie made in Sedona called Angel and the Badman. That Gail Russell was really cute but she died in '61 at age 37 from a heart attack induced by her acute alcoholism. She had been married to Wild Bill Hickok. (Guy Madison)

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Jack and Mike ended up keeping 13 years' worth of the Mountain House foods in the shelters and Mike and the boys eventually moved the extras over to the small lake. Rather than run short of ammo, they bought more and also cached it at the lake along with a surplus 16-man tent and other essentials like a couple of 100-pound propane bottles, propane lamps and stoves. Other equipment at the cache included cots, folding tables and folding chairs. This was completed after school let out in the summer of 2004. They now had plan A and plan B.

John Kerry ended up being the candidate that the Democrats put forth in 2004. Depending upon whom you talked to, he was either a coward or a hero but had picked up several medals in Vietnam. Bush and Kerry never really got around to discussing the issues, so busy were they bad-mouthing each other. Because of the fiasco in Florida in 2000, tremendous steps were taken to see that the people instead of the Supreme Court decided this election. Hah!

American forces finally had Afghanistan under control but they couldn't find bin Laden. It had been a tough year. In March bombs exploded in Madrid, Spain changing the outcome of the elections that occurred 3 days later. 4 American contractors were captured, killed and their bodies mutilated after being ambushed in Fallujah, Iraq. Then in April, word of prisoner abuses at Saddam's prison, Abu Ghraib surfaced on 60 Minutes. It also seemed that every time you turned on TV the insurgents in Iraq had captured someone else and was going to or had already beheaded him or her.

In June, the 9/11 Commission issued its initial report and the WTC and the Pentagon were the fault of the FBI and CIA. That was quite a surprise because most people that thought all along that it had been to work of 19 terrorists. SpaceShipOne made it to 62 miles high twice and they began preliminary hearing for Saddam, charging him with war crimes and crimes against humanity. He looked a little better with a haircut and his beard trimmed.

George Tenet must have known that the WTC was his fault because he fell on his sword on June 3. Ronald Reagan died and they had a real fancy funeral for him. Watching the show, Mike almost had the impression that everyone liked Reagan. Reagan was a hard-talking politician who built a (nearly) 600 ship Navy and bankrupted the Soviets.

It seems that a lot more people liked him now that he was dead than ever did when he was living.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of June, the US-led coalition occupying Iraq transferred sovereignty to an interim Iraqi government. Then came August and September and nature unleashed her fury in Florida which was hit by Hurricane Charley, killing 27 people in Florida. Charley was the most intense hurricane to pound Florida since Andrew. On the first of September, Chechen rebels seized a school in Beslan, Northern Ossetia which resulted in 335 people being killed and 700 injured. Then came Hurricane Frances followed a few days later by Ivan. Before September ended, Mt. St. Helens had blown its top and Hurricane Jeanne had arrived.

Mike, Tom and Juan had ridden the horses over to the cache site and gone camping in July and August. The boys were entering High School this fall, where did the time go to? After Shelia and Ginger had paid their taxes on the capital gains they had money left over but there weren't really any good investments available. They eventually put the money in Money Market Checking accounts. You did notice that it wasn't Tommy anymore, right?

On October 4<sup>th</sup>, SpaceShipOne captured the Ansari X-Prize of \$10,000,000. Later that same month, the Boston Red Sox won the World Series for the first time since 1918. Then, on October 29<sup>th</sup>, a videotape of Osama bin Laden speaking aired on Arabic TV, in which he threatens terrorist attacks on the US, and taunts George W. Bush, over the 9/11 attacks. Must have not hurt Bush too much, he won the election on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Bush won the popular vote this time, but the courts and Congress still decided the outcome of the election. The only difference was that this time the state involved was Ohio instead of Florida. What ever happened to the good old days when opposing candidates stumped on the issues instead of the perceived deficiencies in their opponent's personalities and behavior?

Right after the US election the US launched an attack on Fallujah to kick butts and get some more names. After six days of intense battles, Iraqi town of Fallujah was fully occupied by US forces. The jury convicted Scott Peterson of killing his pregnant wife on November 12<sup>th</sup>.

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November 15, 2004...

This was Tom's 15<sup>th</sup> birthday and this year, Ginger bought his birthday present. It was a Springfield Armory Super Match M1A equipped with the SA 6-20X50 Pro-Plex™ BDC Government Model™ scope and Harris bipod. She also got him a dozen genuine SA 20-round magazines. The price had come way down with the sunset of the Assault Weapons Ban. Mike gave him 2 cases of Black Hills ammunition. The only gun they had that they hadn't given Tom was the Glock Model 23. Ginger had the rifle equipped with the Quick Detach mount for a Surefire Suppressor with she had purchased in her name.

About the only thing the rifle lacked was a night vision sight. But, there was always Christmas. And, you did know that SA stopped carrying scopes, right? There were plenty in the retail market, fortunately.

Shelia and Ginger had paid for the big ticket items during the year, but when it came to the smaller stuff, Jack and Mike were on their own, hence the surplus 16-man tent. The ladies told their husbands that considering what those Hummer's cost, they'd have to last them a lifetime. As I said, even with Jack's discounts, Mike's Hummer had cost about as much as the fence.

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January 1, 2005...

Years from now, if asked to recall the single most memorable event during December 2004, what would you say? A lot of people would remember December 26<sup>th</sup> when the tsunami that resulted from a 9.3 earthquake killed over 200,000 people. What I remember is that Jerry Orbach died on December 28<sup>th</sup>. People in the UK might remember the tsunami or the £22 million theft from a bank. Tom will tell you that it was the month he got his UNS and the Glock 23.

Mike learned that the birthday present he'd gotten the previous year was going to have to do for this year, too. Apparently that Hummer really was a once in a lifetime deal. And, as nice as it was, it wasn't bulletproof. As of December 2004, the military was short 19,000 up-armor kits for the vehicles in Iraq. The military vehicles were now coming from the factory with up-armor in place and contractors were scrambling trying to up-armor the majority of vehicles in Iraq.

Scott Peterson was sentenced to death, but I'll die of old age before they ever execute him. A jury found the former *Baretta* star, Robert Blake, not guilty in the 2001 slaying of his wife, Bonny Lee Bakley, who was shot in a car outside a restaurant where the couple had dined. District Attorney Steve Cooley said Robert Blake was *guilty as sin* and the jurors who acquitted him of murder were *incredibly stupid*. Six crewmembers of the attack submarine USS San Francisco that struck a mass of undersea rock in the western Pacific earlier this year had been disciplined.

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After a person reaches a certain age, they sometimes stop counting. Mike had turned 57 Ginger was going to be 51 and Tom 16 during 2005. They weren't particularly rich, but they most definitely were comfortable. Aside from the large gold transaction that had allowed Shelia and Ginger to scratch a few itches, they were living within their means. How many times had Mike told Jack, "I'll talk to Ginger"? And, except for a few obvious excesses (can you spell Hummer or M1A rifle for 15-year-old boy?) they lived on their income. That was the beauty of having money, you know, you could spend it when you wanted to. Unfortunately for Mike and Jack, the ladies didn't like spending money 'frivo-

lously'. It was their money and they wrote the definition of frivolous. Love sometimes jaded that definition, but how many things could they buy before they became frivolous? Keep in mind that Mike doesn't have a Barrett, but he has the MUNS for the rifle.

At any moment things in the world could change. What about Osama's threats to Bush in 2004 that he was going to attack the US again? It probably wasn't a question of if, but rather when. There's the speech that he made in October 2004 for Bush's benefit:

*Praise be to Allah who created the creation for his worship and commanded them to be just and permitted the wronged one to retaliate against the oppressor in kind. To proceed:*

*Peace be upon he who follows the guidance: People of America this talk of mine is for you and concerns the ideal way to prevent another Manhattan, and deals with the war and its causes and results.*

*Before I begin, I say to you that security is an indispensable pillar of human life and that free men do not forfeit their security, contrary to Bush's claim that we hate freedom. If so, then let him explain to us why we don't strike for example – Sweden? And we know that freedom-haters don't possess defiant spirits like those of the 19 – may Allah have mercy on them.*

*No, we fight because we are free men who don't sleep under oppression. We want to restore freedom to our nation, just as you lay waste to our nation. So shall we lay waste to yours.*

*No-one except a dumb thief plays with the security of others and then makes himself believe he will be secure. Whereas thinking people, when disaster strikes, make it their priority to look for its causes, in order to prevent it happening again.*

*But I am amazed at you. Even though we are in the fourth year after the events of September 11th, Bush is still engaged in distortion, deception and hiding from you the real causes. And thus, the reasons are still there for a repeat of what occurred.*

*So I shall talk to you about the story behind those events and shall tell you truthfully about the moments in which the decision was taken, for you to consider.*

*I say to you, Allah knows that it had never occurred to us to strike the towers. But after it became unbearable and we witnessed the oppression and tyranny of the American/Israeli coalition against our people in Palestine and Lebanon, it came to my mind.*

*The events that affected my soul in a direct way started in 1982 when America permitted the Israelis to invade Lebanon and the American Sixth Fleet helped them in that. This bombardment began and many were killed and injured and others were terrorized and displaced.*

*I couldn't forget those moving scenes, blood and severed limbs, women and children sprawled everywhere. Houses destroyed along with their occupants and high rises demolished over their residents, rockets raining down on our home without mercy.*

*The situation was like a crocodile meeting a helpless child, powerless except for his screams. Does the crocodile understand a conversation that doesn't include a weapon? And the whole world saw and heard but it didn't respond.*

*In those difficult moments many hard-to-describe ideas bubbled in my soul, but in the end they produced an intense feeling of rejection of tyranny, and gave birth to a strong resolve to punish the oppressors.*

*And as I looked at those demolished towers in Lebanon, it entered my mind that we should punish the oppressor in kind and that we should destroy towers in America in order that they taste some of what we tasted and so that they be deterred from killing our women and children.*

*And that day, it was confirmed to me that oppression and the intentional killing of innocent women and children is a deliberate American policy. Destruction is freedom and democracy, while resistance is terrorism and intolerance.*

*This means the oppressing and embargoing to death of millions as Bush Sr. did in Iraq in the greatest mass slaughter of children mankind has ever known, and it means the throwing of millions of pounds of bombs and explosives at millions of children – also in Iraq – as Bush Jr. did, in order to remove an old agent and replace him with a new puppet to assist in the pilfering of Iraq's oil and other outrages.*

*So with these images and their like as their background, the events of September 11th came as a reply to those great wrongs, should a man be blamed for defending his sanctuary?"*

*Is defending oneself and punishing the aggressor in kind, objectionable terrorism? If it is such, then it is unavoidable for us.*

*This is the message which I sought to communicate to you in word and deed, repeatedly, for years before September 11th.*

*And you can read this, if you wish, in my interview with Scott in Time Magazine in 1996, or with Peter Arnett on CNN in 1997, or my meeting with John Weiner in 1998.*

*You can observe it practically, if you wish, in Kenya and Tanzania and in Aden. And you can read it in my interview with Abdul Bari Atwan, as well as my interviews with Robert Fisk.*

*The latter is one of your compatriots and co-religionists and I consider him to be neutral. So are the pretenders of freedom at The White House and the channels controlled by*

*them able to run an interview with him? So that he may relay to the American people what he has understood from us to be the reasons for our fight against you?*

*If you were to avoid these reasons, you will have taken the correct path that will lead America to the security that it was in before September 11th. This concerned the causes of the war.*

*As for its results, they have been, by the grace of Allah, positive and enormous, and have, by all standards, exceeded all expectations. This is due to many factors, chief amongst them, that we have found it difficult to deal with the Bush administration in light of the resemblance it bears to the regimes in our countries, half of which are ruled by the military and the other half which are ruled by the sons of kings and presidents.*

*Our experience with them is lengthy, and both types are replete with those who are characterized by pride, arrogance, greed and misappropriation of wealth. This resemblance began after the visits of Bush Sr. to the region.*

*At a time when some of our compatriots were dazzled by America and hoping that these visits would have an effect on our countries, all of a sudden he was affected by those monarchies and military regimes, and became envious of their remaining decades in their positions, to embezzle the public wealth of the nation without supervision or accounting.*

*So he took dictatorship and suppression of freedoms to his son and they named it the Patriot Act, under the pretense of fighting terrorism. In addition, Bush sanctioned the installing of sons as state governors, and didn't forget to import expertise in election fraud from the region's presidents to Florida to be made use of in moments of difficulty.*

*All that we have mentioned has made it easy for us to provoke and bait this administration. All that we have to do is to send two Mujahedeen to the furthest point East to raise a piece of cloth on which is written al-Qaida, in order to make the generals race there to cause America to suffer human, economic, and political losses without their achieving for it anything of note other than some benefits for their private companies.*

*This is in addition to our having experience in using guerrilla warfare and the war of attrition to fight tyrannical superpowers, as we, alongside the Mujahedeen, bled Russia for ten years, until it went bankrupt and was forced to withdraw in defeat. All Praise is due to Allah.*

*So we are continuing this policy in bleeding America to the point of bankruptcy. Allah willing, and nothing is too great for Allah.*

*That being said, those who say that al-Qaida has won against the administration in the White House or that the administration has lost in this war have not been precise, because when one scrutinizes the results, one cannot say that al-Qaida is the sole factor in achieving those spectacular gains.*



*Rather, the policy of the White House that demands the opening of war fronts to keep busy their various corporations – whether they be working in the field of arms or oil or reconstruction – has helped al-Qaida to achieve these enormous results.*

*And so it has appeared to some analysts and diplomats that the White House and us are playing as one team towards the economic goals of the United States, even if the intentions differ.*

*And it was to these sorts of notions and their like that the British diplomat and others were referring in their lectures at the Royal Institute of International Affairs. (When they pointed out that) for example, al-Qaida spent \$500,000 on the event, while America, in the incident and its aftermath, lost – according to the lowest estimate – more than 500 billion dollars.*

*Meaning that every dollar of al-Qaida defeated a million dollars by the permission of Allah, besides the loss of a huge number of jobs.*

*As for the size of the economic deficit, it has reached record astronomical numbers estimated to total more than a trillion dollars.*

*And even more dangerous and bitter for America is that the Mujahedeen recently forced Bush to resort to emergency funds to continue the fight in Afghanistan and Iraq, which is evidence of the success of the bleed-until-bankruptcy plan – with Allah's permission.*

*It is true that this shows that al-Qaida has gained, but on the other hand, it shows that the Bush administration has also gained, something of which anyone who looks at the size of the contracts acquired by the shady Bush administration-linked mega-corporations, like Halliburton and its kind, will be convinced. And it all shows that the real loser is...you.*

*It is the American people and their economy. And for the record, we had agreed with the Commander-General Muhammad Atta, Allah have mercy on him, that all the operations should be carried out within twenty minutes, before Bush and his administration notice.*

*“It never occurred to us that the commander-in-chief of the American armed forces would abandon 50,000 of his citizens in the twin towers to face those great horrors alone, the time when they most needed him.*

*But because it seemed to him that occupying himself by talking to the little girl about the goat and its butting was more important than occupying himself with the planes and their butting of the skyscrapers. We were given three times the period required to execute the operations – All Praise is Due to Allah.*

*And it's no secret to you that the thinkers and perceptive ones from among the Americans warned Bush before the war and told him, 'All that you want for securing America*

and removing the weapons of mass destruction – assuming they exist – is available to you, and the nations of the world are with you in the inspections, and it is in the interest of America that it not be thrust into an unjustified war with an unknown outcome.’

*But the darkness of the black gold blurred his vision and insight, and he gave priority to private interests over the public interests of America.*

*So the war went ahead, the death toll rose, the American economy bled, and Bush became embroiled in the swamps of Iraq that threaten his future. He fits the saying, Like the naughty she-goat who used her hoof to dig up a knife from under the earth.*

*So I say to you, over 15,000 of our people have been killed and tens of thousands injured, while more than a thousand of you have been killed and more than 10,000 injured. And Bush’s hands are stained with the blood of all those killed from both sides, all for the sake of oil and keeping their private companies in business.*

*Be aware that it is the nation who punishes the weak man when he causes the killing of one of its citizens for money, while letting the powerful one get off, when he causes the killing of more than 1,000 of its sons, also for money.*

*And the same goes for your allies in Palestine. They terrorize the women and children, and kill and capture the men as they lie sleeping with their families on the mattresses, that you may recall that for every action, there is a reaction.*

*Finally, it behooves you to reflect on the last wills and testaments of the thousands who left you on the 11th as they gestured in despair. They are important testaments, which should be studied and researched.*

*Among the most important of what I read in them was some prose in their gestures before the collapse, where they say, How mistaken we were to have allowed the White House to implement its aggressive foreign policies against the weak without supervision. It is as if they were telling you, the people of America, Hold to account those who have caused us to be killed, and happy is he who learns from others mistakes, And among that which I read in their gestures is a verse of poetry, Injustice chases its people, and how unhealthy the bed of tyranny.*

*“As has been said, An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure.*

*“And know that, It is better to return to the truth than persist in error. And that the wise man doesn’t squander his security, wealth and children for the sake of the liar in the White House.*

*In conclusion, I tell you in truth, that your security is not in the hands of Kerry, nor Bush, nor al-Qaida. No.*

*Your security is in your own hands. And every state that doesn't play with our security has automatically guaranteed its own security.*

*And Allah is our Guardian and Helper, while you have no Guardian or Helper. All Peace be Upon he who follows the Guidance.*

What a load of... but it sure sounds pretty. It was an effort to divide the American people. It worked so well that Bush got reelected as the people of America thumbed their collective nose at bin Laden.

## Guys and Dolls – Chapter 15 – Enemies

*The enemy of my enemy is my friend.* – Arab Proverb

Can you tell me with any degree of certainty what is going to happen tomorrow? Did you know on Christmas 2004 that over 200,000 people would be killed the following day? Mother Nature may be very powerful, but she can't read. Hence, she doesn't know that Yellowstone isn't supposed to erupt for 100,000 years and that the Long Valley Caldera isn't overdue. Anywhere from 228,000 to 310,000 people are thought to have died as a result of the tsunami, and the count was not yet complete. In Indonesia in particular, 500 bodies a day were still being found in February 2005 and the count was expected to continue past June.

Who was going to get us? Mother Nature? Osama bin Laden? Or, were we going to get ourselves like the Russians did at a power plant in the town of Chernobyl? We tried that at Three Mile Island. President Jimmy Carter ordered a full investigation of the TMI incident. According to Admiral Hyman G. Rickover, the key figure in the development of nuclear power plants and a close confidant of the President, the original report was so critical of the nuclear power industry's safety lapses that if it had been released, all nuclear plants in the US would probably have been forced to close. Rickover said the final version was more muted, at the command of Jimmy Carter.

December 12, 1952 –The first serious nuclear disaster occurred at the NRX reactor in Chalk River, Canada. A massive power excursion destroyed the core, resulting in a partial meltdown. A series of hydrogen gas explosions threw a four-ton gasholder dome four feet (1.2 m) into the air, where it jammed in the superstructure. Thousands of curies (several terabecquerels) of fission products were released into the atmosphere, and a million US gallons (3,800 m<sup>3</sup>) of radioactively contaminated water was pumped out of the basement into shallow trenches not far from the Ottawa River. The core was buried. Jimmy Carter, then a nuclear engineer in the US Navy, was among the cleanup crew.

Why do the Japanese have a fascination with Godzilla? It's the bombs we dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, right? Maybe.

March 1, 1954 – During the early morning of March 1st, a Japanese Fishing boat, the Diago Fukuryu Maru, or *Number 5 Lucky Dragon*, and its crew witnessed what they believed to be the sun rising to the west of them as they sailed in the Pacific Ocean. In fact, they were witnessing the 15-megaton of TNT (63 PJ) detonation of the hydrogen bomb "Castle Bravo" at the Bikini Atoll, 85 miles (140 km) away. Four hours later, white ash began to fall like snow onto the boat. Many of the crewmembers gathered the ash into bags as souvenirs. Before the evening was over, the entire crew had become ill. The 23 crewmembers were hospitalized in Japan and one later died of kidney failure due to radiation exposure. The incident brought a rift in relations between Japan and the United States because the US did not warn Japan or any other country of the bombs testing, leaving the *Lucky Dragon* exposed to the fallout. (In partial mitigation, the device yielded about 2½ times what was predicted because of an overlooked reaction; the US

expanded its exclusion zones in later tests.) Fallout was enhanced by debris from coral dispersed by the explosion. The US issued an apology and paid 2 million US dollars in compensation. Additionally, in the same incident, 64 natives of Rongelap Atoll were exposed for 50 hours to fallout that produced a whole-body radiation dose of 1.75 Sv, 28 residents of Rongerik Atoll were exposed to doses of about 780 mSv before being permanently evacuated, 18 residents of Alininae Atoll were exposed to 680 mSv for about 50 hours, and 157 residents of Utirik Atoll were exposed to 140 mSv for about 55 to 75 hours.

While we're on the subject, how many nuclear accidents have there been? 2? 10? 25? My list is 17 pages long and the answer is: as of August 9, 2004 – 134. If Osama bin Laden or Mother Nature doesn't get us, we will most surely get ourselves. Think about it. No don't, you need your sleep.

Last year Michael Scheuer, who ran the CIA's Osama bin Laden unit for several years in the late 1990s, wrote a letter to the Senate Intelligence Committee warning of the *careful, professional manner in which al-Qaeda was seeking nuclear weapons ... in deadly earnest*. More than a decade ago, bin Laden allegedly tried to buy a canister of uranium in Sudan for \$1.5 million. (He appears to have been scammed.) In August 2001, he met with two Pakistani nuclear scientists. And later that year, crude sketches of nuclear weapons were found in Al Qaeda training camps in Afghanistan. Scheuer told CBS's 60 Minutes last year that bin Laden even sought a religious edict from a Saudi cleric on whether he could use a nuclear weapon against America. The cleric's answer: *Go for it*.

There are signs that Taiwan is out to gauge world reactions towards a revival of the nuclear program it brought to an abrupt halt in 1988. Professor Chung Chien, of the Atomic Science Faculty of Taiwan's National Tsinghua University, said Taipei has thought seriously about reviving its nuclear program for 'effective deterrence and reinforced defense'. He detailed such a proposal in his book, *Ground Zero, Zero Hour*, published in March.

Since early this year (2004), Chinese military publications, notably *Bingqi Zhishi* (Ordnance Knowledge) and *Chaunjian Zhishi* (Naval Ships) have carried a series of articles about how tactical nuclear weapons would be employed in any cross-strait military conflict. This is unprecedented. Given that Beijing keeps a tight leash over what can be published, its decision to allow public discussion of so drastic a step could be read as a test of public opinion as well as a warning to Taiwan.

Nuclear Weapons: US ~ 10,640; Russia ~ 8,600; Great Britain ~ 200; France ~ 350; China ~ 400; India ~ 100; Pakistan ~ 85-125; Israel ~ 200; North Korea 7; Iran ?.

Pleasant Dreams.

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WACO, Texas – President Bush yesterday said he opposes a civilian project to monitor illegal aliens crossing the border, characterizing them as *vigilantes*. He said he would pressure Congress to further loosen immigration law. More than 1,000 people – including 30 pilots and their private planes – have volunteered for the Minuteman Project, beginning next month along the Arizona-México border. Civilians will monitor the movement of illegal aliens for the month of April and report them to the Border Patrol. Mr. Bush said after yesterday's continental summit, with Méxican President Vicente Fox and Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin at Baylor University, that he finds such actions unacceptable. *I'm against vigilantes in the United States of America*, Mr. Bush said at a joint press conference. *I'm for enforcing the law in a rational way.*

The State Department says that the Méxican government, angry that a thousand American volunteers will begin an Arizona border vigil next month, consistently violates the rights of illegal immigrants crossing its southern border into México. Although México demands that its citizens' rights be protected when they illegally enter the United States, immigrants who cross illegally into México *are often ripped off six ways until sundown*, says George Grayson, a professor at the College of William & Mary and a fellow at the Washington-based Center for Immigration Studies (CIS).

Méxican President Vicente Fox said last week that his government would sue in US or international courts if the volunteers – part of the Minuteman Project, which is designed to protest the Bush administration's lax immigration policies – break the law. *We totally reject the idea of these migrant-hunting groups*, Mr. Fox said prior to yesterday's Baylor University summit in Waco, Texas, with President Bush and Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin, at which the countries agreed to improve security and unify business practices. *We will use the law, international law and even US law to make sure that these types of groups ... will not have any opportunity to progress*, Mr. Fox said last week.

It seems that the Minuteman Project is getting some hate mail. Not everyone south of the border approved of Americans keeping the illegal immigrants out. I've read some of those emails and I can tell you that I wouldn't want to be an illegal immigrant up against those Minutemen. They received some very dire threats. This has to be a hot topic so I won't discuss it any further. Americans were, in the words of the President, *vigilantes* for merely wanting to keep the Méxicans in México unless they had a Visa and a Passport. My goodness, what was the world coming to? I did notice that the Minuteman Project has so many volunteers that they started a waiting list.

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There were all types of obvious disasters that could happen at any time. Lighting could strike the house, a volcano could explode somewhere, or the Midwest could get all mixed up and send a tornado the wrong way. Or, they could have a blizzard or the people who warned about global warming could be right and the Gulfstream stop flowing. And, were the Martians invading before or after the rock came out behind the sun unexpectedly? There are other types of disasters that usually occur on a smaller scale and more often, like for instance a car accident. Maybe California would get the 10.5 earth-

quake that they made the movie about. On the other hand, maybe nothing at all would happen. Hah! Something always happens, it might just not be what you expect when you expect it. The United States was in the grip of paranoia over terrorists striking the country.

The new Department of Homeland Security had combined about 14 agencies into one. It consisted of 4 directorates: Border and Transportation Security (Customs, INS, Federal Protective Service, TSA, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the Office for Domestic Preparedness); Emergency Preparedness and Response (FEMA, HHS, NIRT, Domestic Emergency Support Teams and the National Domestic Preparedness office); Science and Technology (CBRN Countermeasures, Environmental Measures, National BW Defense Analysis and Plumb Island); and, Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (FCRIC, National Communications System, National Infrastructure Protection Center and the Energy Security and Assurance Program). Two other organizations were part of Homeland Security and reported directly to the Secretary: Secret Service and the Coast Guard. Michael Chertoff became the second Secretary of DHS on February 15, 2005.

Buried somewhere in that mass of organizations was the Border Patrol. The problem with the Border Patrol was that the President kept promising to up their budget but didn't. As a consequence, the Border Patrol couldn't enforce the country's borders, especially with México. The US Border Patrol was now part of US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) within the Department of Homeland Security. The US Border Patrol had 20 sectors responsible for detecting, interdicting and apprehending those who attempt to illegally enter or smuggle people, including terrorists, or contraband, including weapons of mass destruction, across US borders between official ports of entry. The Border Patrol had a recruiting program that was open from 4/11/05 – 5/2/05 or until 21,000 applications were received. Each Border Patrol Agent trainee must complete a 19-week resident course of instruction in integrated law, physical training, firearms instruction, driving and Spanish. Border Patrol trainees must maintain a passing score in all courses of instruction in order to be retained.

The starting salary for a Border Patrol Agent was GS-5 or about \$34,000. Assuming that only half of those 21,000 people became Border Patrol Agents, we were looking at \$357 million a year plus all of the benefits and the costs of training. But wait, they weren't going to be walking around the border, so even at 4 persons to a vehicle, we were looking at an additional 2,625 vehicles plus 10,500 guns, etc. Think a billion dollars; a year. All to keep the Méxicans in México; and, GWB didn't want to spend the money so he was inviting the Méxicans to come to the good old USA. Hell, give them amnesty, again.

They didn't have too much of a problem with illegal aliens up in Sedona because the area was too pricey for the illegals to live in. Nevertheless the situation was most confusing. The President of the United States of America was telling Americans that it was un-American to keep non-Americans out of America. And the President of México was threatening to sue the United States. At least that's what Mike read on the Washington Times website. Now that makes sense. México is abusing the illegal aliens in México

from Central and South America but they're going to sue the US in court for keeping the Méxicans in México.

What was the job of the US border patrol, again? ... Apprehending those who attempt to illegally enter or smuggle people, including terrorists, or contraband... Are there enough prisons in the US to hold all of the Border Patrol Agents? The rumor was the prisons were overcrowded as it was because we were locking up the bad guys. They have one more bed; Martha Stewart was out of prison. In actual fact Méxican authorities illegally crossed the US Border in *hot pursuit* of drug dealers and illegals. If US authorities tried that they'd be arrested for having illegal firearms in México. The US was at war with the wrong enemy! It's all Ross Perot's fault for losing the 1992 election. If Perot had won, we wouldn't have NAFTA... NAFTA is very interesting. George W. Bush likes it; Vicente Fox likes it; the Premier of Canada likes it; the citizens of the US, México and Canada hate it. The Méxicans even had another Revolution over it.

The term New World Order has developed pejorative meanings. Certain American right-wing groups such as the John Birch Society have long used the phrase to warn about the United Nations' emerging character as a world government. The left wing may prefer to use it to promote an image of the United States as a bully which no longer has to answer to anyone, and which uses the situation to extend its influence. Thus, extension of the NATO pact to regions in Eastern Europe, the Kosovo War, the war in Iraq, and isolation of small *unbending* nations are all seen as examples of this bullying attitude. The elder Bush's use of the term *New World Order* was picked up as a convenient catchphrase to symbolize this attitude.

Closely related terms, the *New International Economic Order* and the *New International Information Order* were popular in the United Nations and its specialized agencies (especially UNESCO) in the 1970s and 1980s. They were used mainly by developing country groups (e.g. the G-77, the Non-Aligned Movement) to refer to the redistribution of wealth on a global scale, and the international control of the media to stop the *defamation* of third world countries. Western countries attacked these plans as an attempt to destroy capitalism and freedom of speech; and they were quietly dropped in the 1980s after Western countries threatened to withdraw from United Nations bodies. (The US and UK made good on this threat by withdrawing from UNESCO; both have since rejoined.)

Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast on August 29<sup>th</sup> and Hurricane Rita hit on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. We were otherwise occupied. The birthdays came and as did the holidays and nothing seemed to be going on to get excited about. They got through Memorial Day and then Independence Day and finally Labor Day. In later September, after school was underway, 2 head of cattle went missing. That didn't make any sense to Jose, Mike or Jack because not only did they have a fence around Mike's 5 acres, they had a fence around the property. There was only one conclusion they could reach – someone had stolen the cattle. Had anyone tried to come onto the property the front way, either Gunner or his brother Bomber would have raised holy hell. The Doberman's didn't much



care for strangers of any description and nobody came anywhere near the houses without the canine alarms going off.

None of the three of them could find any tracks near the back gate to the property either. Then, a mare went missing and they knew they had a thief. On Saturday, October 22, 2005 they got Gunner and Bomber and went looking. Doberman's are guard dogs, not trackers. Jose made a run over to the Fort Apache Indian Reservation looking for a tracker. Ft. Apache was home to the White Mountain Apache Tribe. He found a man who, for a fee, would take a look and see if he could find anything. Tracking on rocky ground was an exercise in futility, even for this Apache. Whoever had taken the horse must have covered its feet with gunnysacks or something but there were no tracks to follow. The simplest solution to the problem was to let the dogs run with the horses and cattle.

It was at this point that Jack and Mike installed 4 Low Lux, pan & tilt, zooming B&W TV cameras on the radio towers. They set up parallel controls in both shelters and got the boys to watch the cameras in the early evening and Mike through the night. As soon as they had the cameras in place, the thefts stopped. A full grown 4 year old mare is a valuable piece of property. Still by the time Tom's birthday rolled around they'd abandoned the quest. They hadn't seen a thing but they added 24-hour VCR's to record the images.

Ginger got Tom a laptop computer for his 16th birthday. What Tom really wanted was a car, but he had enough money up to buy his own and only needed permission. He got that too and a few days later Jack called to tell Mike that he had a good used Jeep that he thought that Tom might like. Jack didn't claim it was a low mileage vehicle only driven to church on Sundays by some 80-year-old lady, but he did say it was in good condition and worth the price he could get it for and more. So the next Saturday Jack and Tom drove up to Flagstaff and bought the Jeep. Tom was a little short, but Mike made up the difference. Mike had signed the application and Tom passed the written, visual and driving exams. Tom had taken driving lessons at his own expense and he had the class G instruction permit plus the required 5-month driving experience.

Beginning at 16 years of age, a person can get a regular Class G License. The person must have a valid instruction permit, pass a road test and have completed driver education. As an alternative to driver education school, a parent/guardian may certify that the driver has completed 25 hours supervised driving practice, including 5 hours nighttime driving. With a Class G Driver License, a person can drive anywhere, with anyone in the car, at any time of the day or night (within curfew applicable by city code), and a licensed driver is not required to be in the car. This is simply an extra step before getting a full, unrestricted license, and different penalties apply for driving violations. Juan already had his driver's license and now they were back to even.

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Living within their means during 2005 had put them in good condition as far as their checking accounts went. Other than replacing the tapes on the first day of each month, they forgot about it because nothing else came up missing. Things were getting better in Iraq but the occupation was far from over. And the US had finally pulled its troops out of Afghanistan, albeit without ever catching Osama bin Laden

In January of 2006, the stolen horse turned up at a horse auction. Because the brand had been altered the auctioneer became suspicious and did some checking. They eventually got the horse back but no arrest was made in the case. The guy selling the horse was what they call a holder-in-due-course and he was out what he'd paid to buy the animal from the thief. The description didn't help the Sheriff very much, half of population of Arizona was either Mexican or Indian and the thief could have been either, based on the description. Once they got the horse back, they changed the VCRs from the 24-hour settings to 960-hour (40-day) settings.

In February China sortied its small Navy and encircled Taiwan. China had slowly been building the reunification of Taiwan into a major issue. Their fleet stayed just outside of the 12-mile territorial boundary Taiwan claimed. During the same month, North Korea walked out on the talks with the six-party talks. It had taken China months to get North Korea to rejoin the talks in 2005 but it was obvious from the outset that North Korea had its own agenda. This was an especially bad winter in North Korea and the consensus was that they'd invade South Korea to get food to feed their population.

In the United States there was general relief that at least a portion of our troops were home. And, other than severe winter storms the only issue concerning anyone was that Mt. St. Helens was still rumbling. In an effort to appease China, the US had recognized China instead of Taiwan. Both the US and Taiwan maintained unofficial commercial and cultural relations but diplomatic relations existed only between the US and China.

In March 2006, North Korea invaded South Korea under the guidance of KIM Jong-il. China seized the moment and a few days later invaded Taiwan. The entire Pacific Fleet was rushed to South Korea and Taiwan. In Korea, US forces engaged the North Koreans, but further south near Taiwan, the US withheld action against the Chinese. Additional American ships were dispatched to the western Pacific and not a single US submarine, except for those undergoing conversion from SSBN's to SSGN's, remained in port.

Bush moved the military from DEFCON 5 to DEFCON 3 and DHS raised the Threat Level to Orange. It was 1962 all over again only this time the world was caught between a rock and a hard spot. The Russians clammed up and didn't say anything. Although they'd been getting cozy with the Chinese, Putin seemed to sense where this was headed and wanted no part of it. Nationalist China hadn't developed any nuclear weapons despite statements of interest in doing so. And contrary to popular beliefs that China had 2,000 nuclear weapons, they really only had 4-500. But they did have a few of the delivery systems and could reach the continental United States if it came to that.

The bad guy turned out to be North Korea. After some initial success, the Kitty Hawk arrived on the scene and held them at bay with its aircraft while the remainder of the American Fleet steamed at standard speed to Korea. Technically the Korean matter had never been settled and the real situation was a cease-fire that had lasted 53 years. When the Chinese attacked Taiwan, a portion of the Fleet was diverted and took up station keeping posts but didn't interfere.

The US was in a very bad position and couldn't fight 2 major wars at the same time. Congress authorized funding fighters for the Nationalists who took immediate delivery of another 100 F-16's. Although Ronald Reagan had blocked sales of the F-20 Tigershark and the F-16's to Taiwan in the '80's, they had their indigenous IDF fighters, the 150 F-16's the Bush administration had sold them and 60 French-built Mirage 2000-5s. On the ground, they had the CM31 6x6 and a few of the newer CM32 8x8's. They had a missile defense consisting of 3 Patriot batteries, (200 missiles total). They also had six sets of Tien Kung I and Tien Kung II missile systems that are responsible for medium- and high-altitude targets. 20 Hawk missile bases were responsible for targets in the low- to medium- altitudes. Their Navy consisted of 4 submarines, 7 destroyers and 22 frigates. In addition, the Taiwanese had 60-some patrol boats.

Taiwan is an island nation of some 30,000 square km. The Chinese were experiencing problems landing sufficient troops to deal a killing blow. Then the US fighters began arriving and the Taiwanese started sinking Chinese ships. As previously discussed, the Chinese engaged the Taiwanese with tactical nuclear weapons. The US still didn't interfere, but the President moved the country to DEFCON 2.

In South Korea, after overrunning Seoul, the North Koreans were getting their butts kicked by US Naval aviation. As additional carrier task groups arrived the tide turned and the North Koreans began to withdraw. The South Koreans and American pursued them across the DMZ and into North Korea. The North Koreans used the 7 nuclear weapons, some on South Korea and some against the American Fleet. Fortunately, again, the American Fleet was widely dispersed and the attacks were largely unsuccessful. However, GWB authorized limited retaliation with American B-61's carried by American F/A-18's. The 2nd Korean War lasted just over 3 weeks and there wouldn't be a 3rd. Subsequently the American Fleet was dispatched to the area in and around Formosa (Taiwan). The US remained at DEFCON 2.

China had effectively neutralized the Taiwanese with its nuclear weapons. However, the Taiwanese didn't roll over and surrender. An errant Chinese missile stuck and sunk a US Ticonderoga class cruiser...

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With the US military fully occupied in Iraq, Korea and the South China Sea, the Mexican Army invaded New Mexico, Arizona and portions of southern California. At its best, the Mexican Army was a joke and at its worst it wasn't worth mentioning. However, they caught the US flatfooted and short-handed. The US Border Patrol are cops, not sol-

diers. Remnants of the New Mexico, Arizona and California National Guards were activated to try and repel the Méxican Army. Remnants because with the US fighting wars on several fronts, substantial portions of the Reserves and National Guards were otherwise engaged, most in training camps like Ft. Lewis and Ft. Dix.

The US military was forced to abandon installations in the southern regions of the 3 states. Bush ordered the troops in training transported to the area and the Air Force did its best to repel the invasion. It seemed to be too little, too late. The US military had adopted a policy of acquiring replacement weapons on an as needed basis. Large stocks of its weapons were in the Middle East and the South China Sea. Bush wasn't about to use nuclear weapons on American soil and the invasion was going badly for the US.

"What's the latest status?" Jack asked Mike.

"The Méxican Army is engaged in house to house fighting in Phoenix," Mike replied. "The problem is that the snowbirds left most of their weapons up in Iowa or wherever they come from and they aren't able to do much to stop the Méxicans."

"They blew through Tucson and Yuma like they weren't even there," Jack pointed out. "I guess that only leaves Flagstaff for them to attack."

"Flagstaff and Kingman would be my guess," Mike responded. "They bypassed Texas and are on the outskirts of Albuquerque."

"What now?" Jack asked.

"I'd say that we load up as much stuff as we can and move over to the lake," Mike suggested.

"Plan B?" Jack asked.

"Right," Mike nodded.

"How much time do you figure we have to move stuff to the lake?" Jack asked.

"We might be able to make 2 trips but not over 3," Mike replied. "I think that we have one day at best. And Jack, you know that country; it would be mighty tough moving things at night."

"Let's get loaded and take one load tonight and another tomorrow morning," Jack suggested.

"Where do you want to start?" Mike asked.

"We'd better start with the food, ammo and medical supplies tonight and we'll get the communications gear and the rest of the food in the morning," Jack proposed. "If we load during the night, we can make the second trip before dawn and arrive at the lake just after the sun comes up."

"What about the livestock?" Mike asked.

"We'll have to leave the Hummers behind the hill like we planned and herd them over to the lake," Jack suggested. "You supervise and the rest of us will get started loading."

They only had a single trailer and they loaded it with hay for the horses and cattle. The 4 horse trailers did double duty and hauled the food and other things over to the lake. When they returned, they caught a few hours of sleep and before dawn, departed for the lake a second time. A quick trip into Sedona produced several of the 20-pound propane bottles, which they filled from their propane tanks. They were short on hay, but they only had time to make 2 trips with the vehicles. No sooner had they crossed I-17 than early elements of the Mexican Army passed on their way to Flagstaff.

"What's the situation?" Jack asked when they finally arrived at the lake with the livestock.

"I'd say that we're in pretty good shape, except for feed for the animals," Mike replied. "I doubt that we have more than a 3-week supply of hay. I don't think the grazing will extend that much beyond 4-5 weeks at best."

"I'd say that getting hay should be our number one priority," Jack responded. "The problem from my point of view isn't so much the Mexican Army as it is the refugees from Flagstaff."

"We can post Tom and Juan on guard duty and the gals can back them up," Mike said. "Let's get with Jose and see if he knows anywhere we can get more hay."

"Getting the hay isn't the problem," Jose pointed out. "Our problem is transporting it here. Putting 2 bales on each pack animal will only let us move about 36 bales at a time."

"That means that we could double our supply in 3 days, Jose," Jack suggested.

"If we don't get caught we can," Jose replied.

"Let's assume for the moment that early on we'd have the best chance of avoiding getting caught," Mike said. "How much time do you guys think we have before we have to go to ground?"

"A week, tops," Jose replied emphatically.

“A week would give us anywhere from 15-18 weeks of hay,” Mike reflected. “Let’s go for it.”

The 16-man tent had been a good idea as far as it went. It gave them shelter but it didn’t afford them any privacy. Back at the ranch, they left everything locked down and had even taken time to cover the entrances to the shelters with a pile of dirt, hopefully disguising them. The Hummers and other vehicles were parked about 1 mile east of the ranch under camouflage netting and weren’t likely to be discovered. The remainder of the hay was also under the netting but they’d have to cross I-17 to get to it. Jose had worked non-stop moving all of the hay they had on hand, except for the 2 trailer loads they’d brought, to the location where they had stashed the vehicles.

For some as yet unexplained reason, the President had not ordered DEFCON 1. However, the DHS had raised the Threat Level to Red. All it would take to cut the head off the snake invading the US was a single nuclear weapon dropped on México City. The situation in the South China Sea was at best a standoff and at worst the seeds of a nuclear war. The US Navy was using attack submarines and sinking Chinese vessels at an alarming rate. So much so that Beijing was having second thoughts. The Chinese had expected North Korea to use the nuclear option when they began to lose and for several years had attempted to eliminate the nuclear weapons from North Korea. If the Chinese could be said to be intractable, the North Koreans were nothing more than a brick wall. It didn’t really matter anymore; North Korea was a nuclear wasteland. Seeing the damage to North Korea and to Taiwan had given the leaders in Beijing pause.

## Guys and Dolls – Chapter 16 – New Friends

*We have met the enemy, and they are ours.* – Oliver Hazard Perry

ANFO (Ammonium Nitrate/Fuel Oil) had come to the forefront of American consciousness as a result of the 4/19/95 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. However, McVey had not used fuel oil in his bomb. He had used nitro methane, a highly volatile motor-racing fuel. Moreover, McVey had used detonators to trigger the bomb. However, that bomb was only remotely based on the traditional ANFO formula. It used a sophisticated trigger sequence and compressed oxygen to achieve a larger detonation than is possible using mundane means.

ANFO at standard temperature and pressure is classified as a low explosive. At extremely high temperatures and pressures, the primary oxidant undergoes a phase change that allows the material to become much more compressible. In this highly compressed state, ANFO is a high explosive. But, why is that important to know?

It isn't important to know unless you happen to be a terrorist who can't acquire nuclear weapons no matter how hard you try or how much money you have. No doubt there are places on the Internet where a person could get the exact formula. Regardless. There was no doubt that bin Laden had sleeper agents in the US. From time to time, DHS or someone would make another arrest thrusting that very fact back into the consciousness of Americans. One can't simply go to Wal-Mart or K-Mart and buy a ton of Ammonium Nitrate, especially if one is of apparent Arab extraction. But, like Ginger's money, a little here and a little there eventually adds up. The same thing could be said for nitro methane fuel, although it is probably easier to get than fertilizer.

If you were Osama bin Laden, when would you attack the US? How about when the country is on a state of high alert? Life goes on and people still move every day whether the country is at war or peace. Of course you'd have to sneak into the storage locker and mix up the hi-octane ANFO, but anything is possible, including discovery. There are literally millions of Arab Americans and most of them are honest people only interested in living life and getting by. Mixing up the hi-octane ANFO isn't rocket science and any number of explosives experts could teach you how to do it. What did you think they taught in those training camps, knitting? The ratio is 94.3% AN and 5.7% FO by weight. Substitute nitro methane for the diesel fuel and use blasting caps to set off dynamite or Tovex or whatever you can get. KABOOM!

Compressed oxygen isn't that difficult to obtain, most welding shops sell it by the bottle for acetylene torches. So let's say for the sake of argument that you're a terrorist and you've built some of the high order explosives like the IRA or Timothy McVey did. Now what? If you've been a sleeper stationed in the US for very long, you're well aware of how fragile the electrical grid is, right? And those pipelines run through a lot of open country, don't they? What did Osama say in his speech in October of 2004? *So we are continuing this policy in bleeding America to the point of bankruptcy.*

Timothy McVey walked away from the explosion in Oklahoma City. Do you really believe that the Muslim terrorists would do the same? Ask those 19 suicide bombers who brought down the WTC and part of the Pentagon. They were Arabs. Or, ask John Walker Lindh. Ask Richard Reid. They weren't Arabs, were they? Muslims, maybe, but certainly not Arabs. Are we so certain that we can recognize the enemy? Take Jose for example. His ancestors fought at the Alamo; on the inside, not the outside. Here's a guy who may be Mexican according to his ethnic origins, and he happens to speak both English and Spanish, but that doesn't make him a Mexican; he's about as American as they come. America is a melting pot, if I recall. Does the expression *go for broke* ring a bell? Take a sample of an Infantry Division. You will find nearly every ethnic origin and most religions represented. For sure you will find Protestants, Catholics, Jews and Muslims. Pick most any country in the world and some of those people in that Division can trace their heritage back to that country.

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The basic plan was to lay low and stay out of sight. They had children to protect and this was a small group only numbering 13. Juan and Tom were considered adults and Teresa could take care of the little kids freeing Ginger, Shelia and Maria to help the men. Decisions, decisions, do you carry the .357 Magnum, Glock 23 or the .45 Colt revolver? It doesn't make much difference, the ballistics are, in the same order, 1290/535, 1205/500 and 920/423 (mv/ft. lbs.). The 3 men were trying to keep a low profile so they carried the Single Action revolvers and Winchesters. Back at camp, they had the 7.62's and the M16's. They also had some dynamite and blasting caps and the camp was encircled with explosive charges. It was reasonably secure.

Jose led them to a ranch to the northwest of their position. When they got there, Jose and Jack fastened the 36 bales of hay on the horses and they headed back to camp. It was easy enough, maybe too easy, but the following day they repeated the routine and brought back 36 more bales. On the third day the rancher who owned the hay met them. Because the men hadn't done anything except to take hay, he wasn't upset but wanted to know who they were and what they needed the hay for.

"John Braun, is it?" Mike asked. "I'm Mike Hanes, this is Jack Williams and he's Jose Cortez. We had the small ranch over south of Sedona. Still do, I suppose, but with the Mexican Army coming north, we moved our stock over to one of the lakes northeast of Mormon Lake. We can pay you for the hay, no problem."

"I think that the bales go about 65 pounds and you fellas got 108," John said. "I figure about \$250. That would make it close to \$70 a ton."

"We could sure use another 108 bales, John and we can pay in gold if you'd prefer or in cash," Mike replied.

"You could get another 108 bales and pay for the whole purchase with a single 1-ounce gold coin," John suggested.



“Do you deliver?” Jack asked.

“I could, I suppose, but do you folks want me knowing where your camp is?” John asked.

“What’s your setup here, John?” Mike asked.

“The wife and me plus my 2 boys,” John replied. “The hired hands ran off when the Méxicans showed up.”

“If you want to load up a wagon load of hay, you’re welcome to follow us back to camp,” Mike responded.

“I’ll get my boys and we’ll load up the rest of the hay and follow you back,” John said.

“Here’s an Eagle,” Mike pulled out the coin.

“Heard about them, but never saw one,” John chuckled. “How can a fella tell if it’s real gold?”

“I don’t know,” Mike admitted, “But if you’d rather, I can pay you in dollars. The Eagle is Crown gold, 22 carat and each coin contains one full troy ounce of gold. You can’t bite it since it’s not a 24 carat coin.”

◦

“Nice setup,” John said when they arrive at the camp. “Pretty fancy rifles those boys have.”

“They’re Springfield Armory Super Match M1A’s,” Mike replied.

“.308 Winchester?” John asked.

“7.62×51mm,” Mike replied. “It’s the same only different. It’s mostly about the headspace in the rifles and the quality of the brass in the ammo.”

“And you use?” John continued.

“Military surplus and Black Hills ammo,” Jack replied.

“What’s that gun?” John asked.

“That’s a DSA SA58 Standard model FAL rifle, same caliber,” Mike replied.

“Hmm, I see M16’s too, what are you? A bunch of survivalists?” John asked.

“Think of us as some prepared Yuppies from Sedona,” Jack laughed.

“It looks to me like you have more guns than you have people,” John remarked.

“That’s a fair assessment, John. Different weapons for different purposes,” Jack explained.

“We went into hiding when the Méxicans showed up,” John said. “Might have been different if we’d have had some of those fancy rifles.”

“We have the rifles, but we did the same thing,” Mike replied. “Thirteen people don’t stand much of a chance against a large military force. You’d be surprised at what we had to leave behind.”

“For instance?” John asked.

“Our motor vehicles and 2 fancy shelters equipped with generators, propane, diesel fuel and the whole 9 yards,” Jack answered.

“That doesn’t seem right,” John said. “Couldn’t you folks have stayed in your shelters?”

“That would have left us pinned down,” Mike retorted. “This way we’re free to pretty much come and go as we please.”

“Anything else I can sell you?” John asked.

“The only thing that we’re short of is hay for the horses and cattle,” Mike replied. “We have enough of that now for about 3-4 months.”

“The boys and I could haul a couple of more loads of hay,” John pointed out. “Do you have any more of the Eagles?”

“A couple, John” Ginger replied. “Hi, my name is Ginger and I’m Mike’s wife.”

“Are all of you living in one tent?” John asked.

“We should have bought 2,” Jack observed.

“You need another one about the same size?” John asked. “I have one that I could let you have.”

“Is it the same size as our tent?” Mike asked.

“Maybe a little bigger.”

“What would you have to have for the tent, John?” Ginger asked.

“I could let you have the tent and another two loads of hay for those 2 Eagles,” John replied.

“Good, because that’s about all we have is 2 more Eagles,” Shelia butted in.

“And you are?” John asked.

“I’m Shelia, Jack’s wife,” she replied.

“Tell you what, we’ll come back tomorrow with 2 loads of hay and the tent,” John suggested. “You just have the gold ready.”

“Fine, just be sure to holler when you’re coming in so you don’t get yourself shot,” Jack suggested.

◦

“Mercenary isn’t he?” Ginger said after John left.

“True, Ginger,” Mike replied, “But the man has what we need and I don’t see any reason not to do business with him. We could use more tent space.”

“Come and listen to the radio, guys, someone just set off some bombs,” Shelia yelled.

*...at 3pm eastern time at the Niagara Falls Power Station, the announcer said. Reports have been coming in of numerous explosions at key locations around the country. The electric grid for the entire country has been brought down and we also have unconfirmed reports of explosions that may have destroyed several pipelines. This is station KINO in Winslow, 1230 on your AM dial.*

“They haven’t made it to Winslow, yet,” Jack observed.”

“Maybe the National Guard took a stand in Flagstaff and held them up,” Mike suggested.

“I haven’t been able to get any of the Flagstaff AM or FM stations,” Shelia said.

“It’s been 3 days,” Jack pointed out. “Maybe they overran Flagstaff.”

“We should either move this camp or get John and his family to join us,” Ginger suggested. “I don’t like the idea of anyone knowing where we are.”

"The boys and I checked out the area pretty thoroughly when we were looking for camping sites," Mike said. "This is about the best place we could find. There are other places, but they all have shortcomings."

"Tom, why don't you and Juan saddle up and follow those folks back to their ranch," Mike suggested. "Take M16's and plenty of ammo but don't shoot unless you have to."

"Do you want us to take one of the 2-meter radios?" Tom asked.

"I suppose you should, Tom," Mike acknowledged. "If anything goes down, give us a call. Better yet, check in at the top of every hour. Use 146.475mhz."

"That Winslow station is off the air now," Shelia announced.

"What about the Holbrook stations?" Mike asked.

"Too far," Shelia replied. "That's about 75 miles. We might to be able to get them after sundown if they're still on the air."

"Save the batteries," Ginger suggested.

Holbrook had 2 radio stations, KDJI 1270 AM and KZUA 92.1 FM and neither station was on the air after the sun went down. They decided that could either be because the Mexican Army had made it to Holbrook or because the power was down. Then Ginger pointed out that there was a major power plant in Holbrook and that Holbrook should have power, regardless. This left them with the conclusion that Holbrook was in the hands of the Mexican Army. Their conclusion was incorrect; the power plant had shut down voluntarily because of the grid outage.

Tom and Juan had followed John and his boys back to the ranch. They'd loaded 2 wagons full of hay and had tossed a large bundle on top of one of the wagons, presumably the tent. Tom reported that John and his boys had rifles and they looked a lot like the M1A's but without the magazines so he suggested that they were Garand's. The boys were told to return to camp. They kept a watch during the night but no one approached the camp. The following morning about an hour after dawn, John and his 2 boys showed up and John's wife was along.

"Folks, this is my wife Charlotte," John made introductions. "If I remember dear, this is Mike and that's Jack. The fellow over there is Jose. This lady here is Ginger and that lady is Shelia. I didn't get the other lady's name."

"Maria," Ginger answered.

"Winslow and Holbrook are off of the air and we were wondering how you folks would feel about us moving here to your camp?" John asked. "I brought all of our guns and

ammo, but I couldn't bring all of our food. There are two of the tents, so we wouldn't be imposing that way. You could make use one of them for a dining tent if you'd prefer."

"How are you fixed for food, John," Jack asked.

"We have quite a bit, Jack," John replied. "Probably enough for my family for about 3 months or so."

"How about ammo?" Mike asked.

"We have 3 crates of the Korean surplus," John answered. "There are 752 rounds per crate. That's 12 56-round bandoleers and 2 40-round bandoleers in 2 ammo cans."

"You need any help getting the food?" Ginger asked.

"I think the boys and I can get it," John replied.

"Tom and Juan will go along to help," Ginger suggested. "Why don't you and Charlotte just stay here and let the boys do the heavy lifting?"

"Fine by me. We'd appreciate the help," John said.

"Coffee, Charlotte?" Maria asked.

"Thanks, yes" Charlotte replied.

"John?" Maria asked.

"Please."

"I believe that we owe you 2 Eagles for the hay and the tent, right?" Shelia asked.

"Well..." John said.

"Take it John," Jack said. "That money might come in handy one of these days. We'll get the boys to set up the tents after they get back. Mike has a bad back and can't do any lifting."

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John's boys brought back all of the food, a queen mattress, 2 twin mattresses and bedding. John wasn't a survivalist either, but he did believe in being a little prepared. Charlotte and he normally kept a minimum of 3 months food on hand and they hadn't been to the store for a while so he hadn't been sure what they actually had. It was closer to 4½-months of food. John also had a Winchester model 12 shotgun and six boxes of assort-

ed ammo for it. Each of his boys had a Ruger 10/22 and almost a brick of ammo between them. Each family took a tent and they ate at the folding tables.

Living at the lake was like living in a vacuum. With no radio stations on the air, they didn't have any idea what was going on in the outside world. Because they had a very limited supply of gas, they chose not to run the 1.5kw Coleman Powermate Pulse generator to power the Ham equipment, even though it would run about 7 hours on a little over a gallon of gas. That couldn't last because they had to learn what was going on out there. After 6 days of putting it off, they set up an antenna and powered up Mike's Kenwood radio. As near as they could determine, just from listening, the Mexican advance had been halted. However, the country was still without power because those bombings they'd heard about briefly had done a lot of damage to the grid.

Most of the hams that were on the air were using some sort of backup power, like generators or battery-powered inverters. Neither Mike nor Shelia was really a ham, either. They'd only gotten their technician's license so they could legally use ham equipment in an emergency. They were quick to learn that the day-to-day and yearly solar conditions will affect radio signals, which makes radio-wave propagation difficult to predict. Maximum ionization occurs during peak sunspot activity. Sunspots occur in cycles with inconsistent patterns with the 1755 cycle designated number one. Cycle 22 occurred in September of 1986 and Cycle 23 began 1996. High sunspot numbers at the cycle peak normally produce the best wave propagation conditions. The Sun must be visible to obtain the sunspot number. Cycle number 23 was just ending and they were headed to cycle number 24.

Translated into English that meant that in 2006, communications were very bad and would stay very bad over the next year or so. Because they could get the information they needed, they just listened. The Kenwood radios had all of the frequencies except the 1.3GHz band. They had 2 portable (not mobile) antennas, one was a Hustler G6-270R UHF/VHF antenna for 2-meters and 70cm and the other, a Hustler 6-BVT, which covered 10 meters through 80 meters. According to one ham, the situation in Arizona was vastly improved and the invading army had been pushed south nearly to Phoenix.

"Hell, if they're in Phoenix, maybe we ought to head back to the ranch," Mike suggested.

"Maybe we should do a little recon work before we go back into the world," Jack countered. "How about we send Juan and Tom over to see how things are around I-17?"

"My boys would be more than willing to ride with them," John offered.

"Those darned LRRP's were always dangerous, Jack," Mike pointed out. "Still it makes more sense than running headlong into trouble."

"Do your boys know how to use an M16?" Jack asked.

"It's the same thing as an AR-15 isn't it?" John replied. "They've fired one a few times. I'd have to say yes."

"Ok John, but we'd better check them out on the M16s before they leave," Jack said flatly. "The middle of a firefight is one hell of a time to be learning how to use a rifle."

"When do you want them to leave?" Mike asked.

"Around dawn," Jack replied.

"You and I had better spell them on guard duty so they can get some rest," Mike suggested.

"North, south or west?" Jack asked.

"West, I'd prefer to cover the area Tom's been covering."

"Shelia, radio the boys and let them know that we're coming up to relieve them," Jack instructed.

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6am...

"The only time that you need to move that selector to burst is when there are the 4 of you and about 100 of them," Jack suggested. "Otherwise, leave it in semi or on safe. Any questions?"

"Tom since these boys are from around here, you listen to any advice that they may give you," Mike suggested. "What we want the 4 of you to do is to move over to 17 and see if the road is clear. Find yourself a good spot and lay up for a few hours. Report in at the top of every hour as usual. If you boys find yourself in a situation, don't try to be heroes. Most of the heroes Jack and I knew in Nam never made it home alive. Let us know and then skedaddle. I want a live son, not a dead hero."

"You be careful, Tommy," Ginger said.

8am...

"What's that sound?" Juan whispered.

"It sounds like a vehicle, but what kind of vehicle makes a clanking sound?" Tom whispered back.

"There's your answer," John's son Johnny pointed.

“Is that a tank?” Bobby asked.

“No. It’s some kind of armored personnel carrier,” Tom answered.

The vehicle that the boys didn’t recognize was unique to the Mexican Army. It was a HWK-11 armored personnel carrier chassis topped with a light turret mounting a 90mm French gun. The area where passengers were carried was largely filled with this turret and ammunition for the main gun and the machineguns. This vehicle was normally used for long-range reconnaissance in the Mexican Army, or sometimes for infantry support. It was first deployed in the early 1990s.

“This is Tom,” Tom radioed, “We have armor on 17.”

“Return to base, Tom,” Jack instructed.

“10-4,” Tom replied.

10am...

“What did the vehicle look like?” Jack asked.

“It wasn’t a tank, but it had tracks and a fairly large gun,” Johnny answered.

“Exactly what did you see boys?” Mike asked.

“It was a bunch of vehicles headed south on 17,” Tom responded.

“How many vehicles?” Mick persisted.

“They were still coming when we left,” Juan answered.

“Ok. We look again tomorrow,” Jack suggested. “What do you think Mike?”

“Jack, the M1 Abrams has a 120mm gun and it looks like a tank,” Mike replied. “The Bradley looks like a tank but it only has a 25mm gun. The LAV’s are wheeled vehicles. I can’t think of any vehicle like that in the US inventory, can you?”

“I can’t say that it rings any bells, no,” Jack shook his head.

“Then if it was a Mexican vehicle that means that they must be retreating,” Mike suggested.

“Good, that means we’re winning,” Jack laughed.



## Guys and Dolls – Chapter 17 – The Return

Just because you have weapons doesn't mean that you have to shoot them. Weapons are for protection and for killing when it's necessary. It goes back to Mike and Jack's conversation about what they'd do if the ranch became untenable. There were 4 small children, the oldest of whom were the twins, aged 6. Having children with them changed everything. They ran and they hid and along the way they'd made a new friend. John had only charged them \$70 a ton for the hay, market price. The tent they'd bought was reconditioned military surplus and a bargain at the price they'd paid. The 4 boys went over to 17 the following morning and discovered a convoy of HMMWVs headed south.

"Camp, this is Tom," Tom called back. "There's traffic on 17, but it's our side."

"Thanks, Tom, return to camp," Shelia replied.

Later...

"You fellas still want the hay or should I take it back to the ranch?" John asked.

"We buy all of our hay anyway, it might just as well be from you as the other guy," Mike assured him. "We'll keep the hay and we're thankful to have it."

"That's a lot of hay, how will you get back to your ranch?" John asked.

"Probably the same way we got our original supply over here," Jack laughed, "A trailer-full at a time."

"John and Bobby can help you load it," John offered.

"After we get everything back to our ranch, why don't you and your family come on over for a celebration?" Ginger suggested.

"I'd kind of like to see those fancy shelters you folks didn't use," John admitted. "Charlotte and you ladies can work out the details."

They returned to the ranch on April 13th, 2006. Shelia and Ginger quickly mailed extensions of time to file the tax returns and Juan and Tom, plus John and Bobby spent a few days hauling the hay back to the ranch. They also brought back the 13-year store of food, the ammo and medical supplies, but they cached the tents and other equipment for the next time they might need it.

Saturday, April 22, 2006...

"Did you have any trouble finding the ranch?" Mike asked.

"Nope. You don't see many ranches hemmed in with a 7' high fence topped with barbed wire," John laughed.

"Do you want to sell the other tent John?" Jack asked.

"I think maybe I'd better hang on to it, Jack," John replied. "I can give you the name and address of the place I bought the tents. They have about every type of military tent ever made. This is some fortress you have," John observed. "How come you have lights? They still haven't restored power."

"We have our PV panels plus backup generators," Mike explained. "Anyway, you said that you wanted to see our shelters. Follow me."

"Both shelters are essentially the same John," Jack said. "My shelter is only a few square feet larger than Mike and Ginger's. So, aside from personal touches, they're nearly identical."

"Pretty impressive," John noted after thoroughly inspecting the shelter. "It must be nice to have money."

"How big is that ranch of yours?" Jack asked.

"960 acres," John replied.

"Hell, you're worth more than either of us," Jack laughed. "The only difference is where you have your money invested. I sell cars for a living and Mike and Ginger live off of Mike's disability pensions."

"Then how did you manage this?" John asked.

"I got the 80 acres in a divorce settlement, years ago," Jack answered. "A few years back Mike and Ginger got 5 acres from me. Mike can probably tell it better, but Ginger got some money in a divorce settlement several years ago and carefully invested it. Shelia's money came from a settlement to avoid a lawsuit. Then a few years back our wives invested their holdings in gold. They sold that back in 2004, but, we mainly put these shelters together a little at a time."

"Fancy medical clinic," John observed.

"Ginger is a Paramedic, John," Mike explained. "My back is all screwed up and she started off by getting EMT training and then spent a tough year becoming a Paramedic. In some ways I suppose we've been lucky. Our preparedness didn't happen overnight, you know. It's the result of lots of years and some careful planning."

"It's still impressive," John laughed. "And to top it off, both of you have Hummer's"

“They’re boy toys, John,” Mike chuckled. “The mileage on the things is awful. They don’t get driven all that much. I rarely go anywhere and Jack uses a pickup to commute to Flagstaff.”

“Maybe Char and I ought to put in some sort of shelter,” John reflected.

“Couldn’t hurt,” Jack said. “They still have a standoff with the Chinese. It is anyone’s guess how that will end.”

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It ended when the Chinese pulled their troops from Taiwan in May. Their losses were staggering, both in men and in ships. Having seen the nuclear devastation, Beijing opted not to use the nuclear option against the US, at least for now. Those ANFO bombs had done a lot of damage to America’s infrastructure and the country was just now getting electricity restored. Because the UN had finally sent peacekeepers to Iraq, Bush was in the process of withdrawing the remaining US troops and their equipment from Iraq.

After the Korean thing, Iran lost a major supporter for its nuclear program. The Iranians reluctantly allowed UN inspectors to examine their program. The new hot spot seemed to be in the Sudan with its Civil War and all of those people starving. The UN had sent in over 10,000 peacekeepers in 2005, but it was Somalia all over again. In light of the US experience in Somalia, Bush had declined to send US peacekeepers to Africa. As it was, the United States had a lot of problems in 2006. They were busy cleaning up after another series of terrorist attacks, resealing the Méxican border and resupplying and refurbishing the Pacific Fleet after the Chinese thing ended. School had to be extended a few weeks so the kids in Sedona and other parts of the southwest affected by the Méxican Invasion could get back on track.

John and Char put in a shelter and both their boys studied and took the technicians license exam. And, for whatever reason, the price of gold was still slipping slowly upward, along with the price of gas and diesel. Bush introduced a measure, late in 2006, to increase the Army by 4 Divisions. 2006 was also another bad hurricane season down in the southeastern US.

“I’m putting in my papers and retiring on my next birthday,” Jack announced. “I’ll be 60 and I just can’t do that commute anymore. The company has a pension plan for permanent employees and I’ll take it early.”

“We’re starting to get old, Jack,” Mike laughed. “Do you realize that Tom will be starting 11th grade this year?”

“That’s right he will, won’t he?” Jack acknowledged. “All of our kids will be in school this year too. Has Tom said anything about college?”

"I haven't heard a word, but maybe he's talked to Ginger about it," Mike suggested. "She handles his college fund. He can go to about any school in the country. Except for his allowance, we've put every dime of the money Arizona paid us into his college fund. Plus, Ginger has put a grand in the fund for every A Tom has gotten. That boy's a straight A student, so he should be wealthy."

"It's just a good thing we don't smoke," Jack laughed. "I can just visualize myself asking Shelia for 30 bucks to buy a carton of cigarettes. Hell, my paychecks are directly deposited and she gives ME an allowance."

"Cheryl was like that," Mike laughed. "What was hers was hers and what was mine was hers if she could get it."

"You got a good one the second time," Jack observed.

"Hell, so did you, but it was the third time for you wasn't it?" Mike replied.

"Fourth, Mike," Jack said. "I almost lost count myself."

"We ought to run up and check out John and Char's shelter," Mike suggested. "Say what kind of mileage do you get on your Hummer?"

"I estimate combined city/highway mileage of 10 to 12 mpg, or less," Jacked laughed. "If you have to ask, you can't afford the fuel. Speaking of which, we should store fuel for the Coleman generator at the cache. Last time we were there we were afraid to run it because we didn't have much gas."

"Maybe we should just put in a tank," Mike suggested.

"I don't think so Mike," Jack disagreed. "If we use Jerry cans we'd be more mobile."

Maybe what Mike should do was mount the Kenwood in the Hummer and put on a couple of mobile antennas. Kenwood made mobile mounting brackets for the TS-2000 radio. It sort of makes sense. If you're going to have a \$125,000 4WD, you might as well have the ultimate radio in the Hummer. He talked to Ginger; it wasn't every day that a guy had 2 TS-2000's. And after he did, he mentioned it to Jack...

o

John and Char had built a fine shelter all on their own. He used a backhoe, dug the hole, put in the plumbing and poured a slab. Then, with Johnny and Bobby helping him, John laid concrete block. He used the backhoe to set their old freezer on the slab and then put in posts and poured a 6" thick roof. After, he covered it over with 8' of mounded earth and built a homemade blast door. He bought a good used 12kw propane residential standby generator and the LUWA air filter from USS and he was good to go. They equipped the place with used beds they'd gotten from Goodwill and made an extra trip

or two to Sam's Club. Their shelter was a study in contrasts between the shelters Mike and Jack had. John upped the ante and bought more Korean surplus ammo but the LUWA system and the generator were his big investments.

Since John used a large amount of propane, it wasn't hard to get Ferrellgas to put in a larger propane tank. They already had a 1,500-gallon underground diesel tank for the tractors and John's diesel pickup got pretty good mileage. What would you call a guy like John, a budget yuppie? He bought the boys a used Icom HF radio from AES and stuck up an antenna on his old windmill. There was another lake closer to John's ranch that had better vehicle access so Mike and Jack got the boys to move the cache. Jack and Mike liked John's hidey-hole and decided that there wasn't a dime's difference between his homemade shelter and their custom-built jobs.

Plus, Tom and Juan spent a couple hours studying and got their technician's licenses. During the fall of 2006, the subject of college finally came up. Tom said that he was going to Arizona State down in Tempe and that Juan was going to college with him. Tom was going to study Agribusiness in the pre-veterinary medicine program. Juan was going to study Elementary Education with an emphasis on multilingual/multicultural education. Tom absolutely insisted that there was more than enough money in his education fund to put both Juan and him through Graduate/Veterinary Medicine School. Juan would try to pay his own way with Jose lending a helping hand. But, if his best friend ran short of money, Tom was going to see that he got his education.

"Do you agree with what Tom wants to do?" Mike asked Ginger.

"It doesn't matter if we agree or not, Mike," Ginger replied. "We saved the money so he could go to any college he wanted. Both of the boys are smart and if that's how he wants to spend the money, it's up to him. Did you realize that when we were at the lake last spring you called Tom your son?"

"I did not," Mike disagreed.

"Sure you did. You said, 'I want a live son, not a dead hero'," Ginger laughed.

"I did, didn't I," Mike admitted.

"Do you really feel that way?" Ginger continued.

"I guess I do, yes."

"Why don't we wait until his 18th birthday and start adoption proceedings?" she suggested.

"We'll have to ask him," Mike replied.

"Do you have any doubt what his answer might be?" she asked.

“He’s a fine young man, isn’t he?” Mike asked rhetorically.

“And just think, you didn’t have to change a single diaper,” Ginger laughed.

“By the way, I really appreciate the extra radio and antennas for the Hummer,” Mike said. “It has everything but a hot and cold running blond.”

“Let’s go shooting Saturday,” Ginger suggested. “I think you need a reminder.”

“I was talking about Cheryl,” Mike said.

“And I was talking about why I bought that King Cobra in the first place,” she replied, eyes sparkling.

“Have I ever run around on you?” Mike asked.

“Take a deep breath,” Ginger directed. “...Well, you’re still breathing so apparently not.”

“My son, the doctor,” Mike laughed.

“Hey, that’s my line,” Ginger laughed.

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The peace in the Far East was very uneasy. The Chinese had blinked and lost a lot of face over Taiwan. In an effort to bolster the security of the western pacific, GWB moved the Fleet to Pearl Harbor and began to renegotiate contracts with the Philippine Islands. The Nimitz and Ronald Reagan relocated from San Diego and Carl Vinson and the John C. Stennis relocated from Bremerton, WA. The CVN 77, George H. W. Bush, christening had occurred in March 2006 and she was scheduled for delivery for March 2008, with commissioning in 2009. The inherent advantage of basing the carriers in Bremerton, San Diego and Japan was avoiding putting all of the eggs in one basket. However, at any given time it wasn’t envisioned that more than one carrier would be at Pearl.

The Republicans held their own in November of 2006 and on November 15th, Tom turned 17. Although Juan was older, he’d missed the cutoff date for starting school by a couple of days and Tom and he were in the same class. At 17, Tom stood 6’ tall, an inch taller than Mike. And despite the best attempts of several girls at Sedona High School, neither Juan nor Tom had a steady girlfriend. John and Bobby attended High School in Flagstaff. The word was that they were planning on staying on John’s ranch and becoming ranchers.

On Jack’s 60th birthday, he put in his retirement papers with the dealership. That was early in 2007. Around the country, steps were finally being taken to rebuild the electrical

grid into a unified system that couldn't be brought down by terrorist bombs. President Bush signed H.R. 4520, the *American Jobs Creation Act of 2004*, into law on 22 October 04. The law expanded the availability of the production tax credit (PTC) for electricity produced from new renewable facilities, including geothermal. Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Oregon, Nevada, New Mexico and Washington were working on geothermal production plants and as part of the bankruptcy settlement with PG&E, the state of California had a \$30 million fund to examine clean energy investments, the California Clean Energy Fund (CalCEF). It seems that during the Carter administration they'd drilled for oil in Idaho and had come up with 500° water instead. 3 test wells were supposed to go in near Idaho Falls.

Several states had sources of hot water or steam, including California, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii and Wyoming. For some reason, Wyoming didn't have a geothermal program even though they had the greatest resource on the continent. Yellowstone Park occupies the northwest corner of Wyoming. However, high voltage power lines were still susceptible to terrorist attacks and efforts were also being made to find alternative delivery systems. Guys like Tesla were never around when you needed them.

"What are we going to do now?" Jack asked. "The kids are in school all day and I can't spend all my time chasing Shelia."

"Putter," Mike replied.

"What?"

"Putter. You know, Jack, find small projects to occupy our time," Mike chuckled.

"For instance?" Jack asked.

"It would be a good time for you to get your radio license," Mike suggested. "Then you could legally use the radio in your Hummer."

"I don't know anything about electronics," Jack protested.

"You don't have to, just memorize some questions and answers," Mike explained. "Why don't Shelia and you buy a trailer and come this summer we could take a vacation and see the country?"

"For instance?"

"We could go to Yellowstone and watch Old Faithful," Mike suggested.

Long Valley Caldera is a 15x30 km oval-shaped depression located 20 km south of Mono Lake along the east side of the Sierra Nevada in east-central California. This area of eastern California has produced numerous volcanic eruptions over the past 3 million

years, including the massive caldera-forming eruption 760,000 years ago. The most recent eruption occurred just 250 years ago in Mono Lake at the north end of Mono-Inyo Craters volcanic chain.

In May of 1980, a strong earthquake swarm that included four magnitude 6 earthquakes struck the southern margin of Long Valley Caldera associated with a 25-cm, dome-shaped uplift of the caldera floor. These events marked the onset of the latest period of caldera unrest that continues to this day. This ongoing unrest includes recurring earthquake swarms and continued dome-shaped uplift of the central section of the caldera (the resurgent dome) accompanied by changes in thermal springs and gas emissions.

In 1982, the US Geological Survey under the Volcano Hazards Program began an intensive effort to monitor and study geologic unrest in Long Valley caldera. The goal of this effort is to provide residents and civil authorities in the area reliable information on the nature of the potential hazards posed by this unrest and timely warning of an impending volcanic eruption, should it develop. Most, perhaps all, volcanic eruptions are preceded and accompanied by geophysical and geochemical changes in the volcanic system. Common precursory indicators of volcanic activity include increased seismicity, ground deformation, and variations in the nature and rate of gas emissions

Yellowstone is home to one of the world's largest active volcanic systems. Cataclysmic eruptions in the past few million years created huge volcanic depressions called "Calderas." The youngest, the Yellowstone Caldera, was formed 640,000 years ago. Since then, about 80 eruptions of rhyolite (thick, sticky lava) and basalt (more-fluid lava) have occurred. The caldera's interior is largely covered by rhyolites, most erupted in the past 160,000 years. Large hydrothermal (steam)-explosion craters formed in the past 14,000 years are located near Yellowstone Lake and in major geyser basins. Recent earthquakes (1973 to 2002) were concentrated between Hebgen Lake and the Norris Geyser Basin and along faults.

The docudrama *Supervolcano* dramatically explored the impact of a large caldera-forming eruption at Yellowstone. The scale of the portrayed eruption was similar to the eruption of the Huckleberry Ridge Tuff at Yellowstone 2.1 million years ago. The movie was realistic insofar as depicting what could happen if an eruption of this magnitude were to occur again. Although the drama was set in the future, it did an acceptable job of addressing some of the issues scientists would grapple with if Yellowstone showed signs of an impending eruption. Scientists were not convinced that there will ever be another catastrophic eruption at Yellowstone. Given Yellowstone's past history, the yearly probability of another caldera – forming eruption could be calculated as 1 in 730,000 or 0.00014%. However, this number is based simply on averaging the two intervals between the three major past eruptions at Yellowstone – this is hardly enough to make a critical judgment. This probability is roughly similar to that of a large (1 kilometer) asteroid hitting the Earth. Moreover, catastrophic geologic events are neither regular nor predictable. The term "Supervolcano" implies an eruption of magnitude 8 on the Volcano Explosivity Index, meaning that more than 1,000 cubic kilometers (250 cubic



miles) of magma (partially molten rock) are erupted. The most recent such event on Earth occurred 74,000 years ago at the Toba Caldera in Sumatra, Indonesia.

A giant eruption would have regional effects such as falling ash and short-term (years to decades) changes to global climate. The surrounding states of Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming would be affected, as well as other places in the United States and the world. Such eruptions usually form calderas, broad volcanic depressions created as the ground surface collapses as a result of withdrawal of partially molten rock (magma) below. Fortunately, the chances of this sort of eruption at Yellowstone are exceedingly small in the next few thousands of years.

Yellowstone, as a whole, possessed close to 60 percent of the world's geysers. The Upper Geyser Basin was home to the largest numbers of this fragile feature found in the park. Within one square mile there were at least 150 of these hydrothermal wonders. Of this remarkable number, the naturalist staff predicted only five major geysers regularly. They are Castle, Grand, Daisy, Riverside, and Old Faithful. There are many frequent, smaller geysers to be seen and marveled at in this basin as well as numerous hot springs and one recently developed mud pot (if it lasted).

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And, your government had voted to let some of those Major Corporations drill holes into the ground to tap geothermal energy. We all know how Major Corporations never cut corners or endanger anyone's safety, right? Anyway, Mike had gone on the net to find out a little information about Yellowstone and one thing led to another. Before he'd finished, he was ready to write a dissertation on volcanoes. According to the USGS the only active volcano in the continental US was Mt. St. Helens. However, Mt. Lassen had small steaming – fumaroles in summit craters and hot ground on its northern flank. In addition, Mt. Hood had occasional seismic swarms; Clear Lake in California had geothermal energy and long-period (volcanic) seismicity suggesting an "active" status; Coso Peak in California had geothermal energy production and seismic activity suggesting an "active" status; and there were the ongoing eruptions in Hawaii.

But then there were earthquakes every day in California and tornados in the Midwest. Soon they'd have the hurricanes in Florida. Hey, don't forget Alaska! Mt. Spurr had been experiencing a volcano swarm since 2004. Mt. Spurr Volcano, about 80 miles west of Anchorage across the Cook Inlet, had grown restless. Scientists at the Alaska Volcano Observatory (AVO) first noticed the unrest in early July (2004) when hundreds of small earthquakes occurred 3 to 4 miles beneath Spurr's summit. Aerial reconnaissance in mid-July and early August documented recent small flows of mud and rock and a recently formed "ice cauldron" in the summit ice cap. The ice cauldron is a collapse feature possibly caused by an increase in heat coming from deep beneath the summit. Using sensitive instruments, scientists flying around the volcano on August 7 detected small amounts of the volcanic gases in a plume from the summit. Mt. Spurr was still going hot and heavy; plus...

The June 1912 eruption of Novarupta Volcano altered the Katmai area dramatically. Severe earthquakes rocked the area for a week before Novarupta exploded with cataclysmic force. Enormous quantities of hot, glowing pumice and ash were ejected from Novarupta and nearby fissures. This material flowed over the terrain, destroying all life in its path. Trees upslope were snapped off and carbonized by the blasts of hot wind and gas. For several days, ash, pumice, and gas were ejected and a haze darkened the sky over most of the Northern Hemisphere.

It was an apparently unnamed valley when the 20th century's most dramatic volcanic episode took place. Robert Griggs, exploring the volcano's aftermath for the National Geographic Society in 1916, stared awe struck off Katmai Pass across the valley's roaring landscape riddled by thousands of steam vents. *The Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes*, Griggs named it.

"The whole valley as far as the eye could reach was full of hundreds, no thousands – literally, tens of thousands – of smokes curling up from its fissured floor," Griggs wrote. One thousand steam vents reached 150 meters (500 feet) in the air, some more than 300 meters (1,000 feet). Such marvels inspired explorers on the next year's expedition. Only one eruption in historic times – Greece's Santorini in 1500 BC – displaced more volcanic matter than Novarupta. The terrible 1883 eruption of Indonesia's Krakatoa belched out little more than half as much yet killed 35,000 people. Vastly isolated Novarupta killed no one. If the eruption occurred on Manhattan Island in New York City, Robert Griggs calculated, residents of Chicago would hear it plainly. The fumes would tarnish brass in Denver. Acid raindrops would burn your skin in Toronto. In Philadelphia the ash would lie nearly as deep as this folder is wide. Manhattan would have no survivors.

The western US was along the so-called Ring of Fire, as are 75% of the Earth's active and dormant volcanoes. The ring stretches from South America, where the Nazca plate dips beneath the South American plate, pushing up the Andes mountains, and then north up along the coasts of Central America and México. In the Pacific Northwest the tiny Juan de Fuca plate, formed at a spreading center just to the west, is sinking (subducting) beneath the North American plate. This oceanic plate is blanketed with seafloor sediments, and its crust is waterlogged. As it dips beneath the North American plate – and before it melts completely – the two plates can snag and then break free. The result was earthquakes, a characteristic of the Ring of Fire and other subduction zones.

The subducting crust is wet, as crust goes, and that water helps to melt the mantle overlying the sinking plate. This forms blobs of magma – slightly different than the magma that wells through at mid-ocean ridges – that rises up toward the surface. Volcanoes form where the magma breaks through – in this case, the volcanoes of the Cascades Range, including Mount St. Helens. Magma in subduction zones was particularly resistant to flow (viscous), and it is also quite gassy. So when it erupts, it did so in violent explosions – as did Mount St. Helens, and as the other volcanoes in the Ring of Fire continue to do year after year.

Alaska's Aleutian Islands, all volcanic in origin and formed from the subduction of the Pacific plate beneath the North American represent the northern arc of the Ring of Fire. The ring then swept down along Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula and through Japan, where the Pacific plate dived beneath the Eurasian plate. That subduction was responsible for all of the Japanese islands and picturesque volcanoes like Mt. Fuji. The last section of the Ring of Fire was made up of Micronesia and New Guinea, where the Indo-Australian plate drops below the Pacific, and New Zealand, where the Pacific plate returns the favor, and dived below the Indo-Australian.

How can a person be prepared if they don't know what is going on around them? For instance, they had to keep an eye on the storms in California because 24-hours later, they'd hit Arizona. They'd bought their survey meters when Shane Connor started his business. Naturally, they sent them back to Gonzales to be recalibrated/recertified every 3 years. Getting prepared was one thing – staying prepared was quite another. What good are all of those flashlights if you have dead batteries? If you really kept track, you used a First In First Out (FIFO) inventory system and you always knew what you did and didn't have on hand and how old it was. The manufacturer recommended adding PRI-D to your diesel fuel about every 9 months to keep it fresh.

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Jack took Mike's advice and got his technicians license. Shelia and he bought a good used 24' trailer in May and they were set to head to Yellowstone in late June. When they got there, they discovered that Old Faithful had a mistress and wasn't nearly as faithful as they thought he'd be. Yellowstone was experiencing another swarm of earthquakes, not a completely unheard of occurrence. Mike was a little concerned, but the Park Rangers assured them that everything was normal. The USGS carefully monitored Yellowstone and could predict any problems weeks, and probably months, ahead of them happening. Reassured, they checked out Jackson and then headed to South Dakota.

"Those Hills don't look Black to me," Jack chuckled. "I wonder how they got their name?"

Seen from a distance, the Black Hills, rising several thousand feet like sentinels above the surrounding prairie, do appear to be black. But enter these hills and a world of color and variety unfolds. The Black Hills cover an area 125 miles long and 69 wide in western South Dakota and eastern Wyoming. They included rugged rock formations, canyons and gulches, open grassland parks, tumbling streams, deep lakes, and caves. Trees and plants from the Rocky Mountains, eastern woodlands, northern forests, and the Great Plains converge at this biological crossroads. The forest cover and forage sustain a wide variety of birds and four-legged animals, including elk, deer, bighorn sheep, and mountain goats. These mountains had power, or, as South Dakota conservationist Peter Norbeck said, value beyond gold. For many people, from past and present Native Americans to today's visitors, the Black Hills had been a special place for physical and spiritual renewal. Paha Sapa. Lakota Sioux for "hills that are black." But

that's the surface translation. The deeper translation was "the heart of everything that is." While they were in Rapid City, they stopped by Black Hills ammo and loaded up on fresh ammo.

## Guys and Dolls – Chapter 18 – The Events

After their vacation, the families returned home to what appeared to be a mundane summer. Neither Mike nor Jack played golf but they did like to fish. Those little lakes south of John's ranch held a lot of fish so they spent the remainder of the summer camping and fishing. Sometimes the gals came along, but usually they didn't. The fellas checked in with the ranch every evening on a cell phone when they were at the lakes. The tent they used was one of their trailers.

"How's the fishing?" Ginger asked.

"I don't think they're hungry," Mike lamented.

"It might be a good idea for Jack and you to cut your trip short," Ginger suggested. "That thing in the Far East is heating up again."

"It's too late to pull camp tonight," Mike replied. "We'll pack up and be there in the morning."

"Ok, but get home as fast as you can," Ginger agreed.

"What's up?" Jack asked.

"Ginger sounded worried, Jack. She says that thing in the Far East is heating up," Mike replied. "I told her that we'd pull camp and come home in the morning."

"That's not like her to get worried," Jack pointed out. "Give me the phone and I'll call Shelia."

"Shelia, Jack," Jack announced. "Mike was just talking to Ginger and he said she sounded awfully worried. What's going on?"

"I don't know Jack," Shelia replied. "CNN had a spot about the US deploying all of the Carrier Strike Groups to the Far East."

"It won't take that long to pull camp and get home," Jack replied. "We'll be home in an hour or so." Jack dialed another number.

"John?" Jack said, "This is Jack. Sorry to bother you but have you been watching the news?"

"Yes, but I don't know if it's a big deal or not," John replied. "They sortied the last Carrier Strike Group out of Pearl and the Kitty Hawk is getting underway."

"Have they raised the Treat Level or the DEFCON level?" Jack asked.

“Not as far as I know,” John replied.

“Thanks John, I think that Mike and I will head back to the ranch anyway,” Jack responded. “Douse the fire and let’s get going, Mike.”

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“Ok, we’re back,” Mike announced. “Has there been any more on the news?”

“Not really, no,” Ginger replied. “They haven’t made any announcement about raising the Threat Levels or the Defense Condition.”

Mike knew that you could find out what the current DEFCON and THREATCON were by asking Jeeves. You went to the Ask website and asked the question, *What is the current DEFCON?* and you got back the DEFCON. The answer in this instance was, DEFCON 4. He didn’t know any other way to find out the status of the American military because he couldn’t even find the status at the Defense Department website. During the Cold War, the US was usually at DEFCON 4 and the highest it had ever been had been DEFCON 2. The Threat Level warned of pending Terrorist Attacks but what about the status of the military? In all likelihood, the status of the military told you a lot more than the Threat Level.

(It’s different now. Go to <http://www.defconwarningsystem.com/> it gets updated when it changes. At the moment, we’re at 5.)

How come the Russians knew 60 seconds after the US changed the DEFCON but the American Public couldn’t find out? Was it because we didn’t need to know, but the Russians did? The simple truth was hard to take. After 9/11, NORAD stopped posting the DEFCON status. The whole darn world changed on 9/11/01. You could still get to the NORAD website, in a roundabout way, but you couldn’t find out what the DEFCON was anywhere. About all you could do was put on CNN or FOX and wait for them to tell what the government wanted you to know. Stay up all-night or got to bed?

After a day or two on the lake and a few beers to go along with the few fish they did manage to catch, that bed looked very inviting. So did the redhead laying in it waiting for Mike to come to bed. So the TV got turned off and Mike got turned... Anyway, the next morning, Mike woke up early, made some coffee and turned on the TV. There didn’t seem to be much happening that was of any consequence and he turned the TV off and made Ginger breakfast in bed.

“What’s that for?” Ginger asked.

“Nothing special,” Mike replied setting the tray over her lap. “I turned on the TV and nothing seems to be happening and I was hungry so I made us breakfast.”

“They didn’t say any more about the carrier groups?” Ginger asked.

“Didn’t even mention it honey,” Mike answered. “They did have a squirt about Yellowstone and Old Faithful not sending up any geysers for 4 days. You remember when we were there about Jack and I joking that Old Faithful must have a mistress, don’t you?”

“The USGS would know if it was anything to be worried about, wouldn’t they?” Ginger asked.

“They should, they have that observatory,” Mike answered. “If magma were building up it should generate small earthquakes. At least that’s what the guide said when we were there.”

“It’s not supposed to blow up for another 100,000 years is it?” Ginger asked.

“Right, the last caldera was formed 640,000 years ago,” Mike agreed. “The most likely volcanoes to blow up are Mt. St. Helen’s or that one on the Cook Inlet, Mt. Spurr.”

“I guess that I should have left the two of you at the lake,” Ginger sounded dejected.

“We weren’t catching much and I drank a little too much beer anyway,” Mike laughed.

“Hangover?”

“I didn’t drink that much honey,” Mike laughed “But a six pack normally lasts me six months, not 2 days.”

The phone rang and Ginger answered. “Mike go turn on the TV and I’ll get dressed.”

“What channel?” Mike asked.

“It won’t make any difference,” Ginger replied.

Have you ever seen any of the pictures taken from atop the WTC the day before the planes brought them down? The only thing that separated those folks from disaster was 24-hours. CNN was announcing that the USGS was concerned enough about Yellowstone to order an evacuation of nearby areas.

“Grab some coffee, Jack,” Mike said when Jack came in. “We weren’t there all that long ago.”

“Has Old Faithful spouted yet?” Jack asked.

“It’s going on the 5th day and no, it hasn’t,” Mike replied.

“We’ve only been back 2 months,” Jack pointed out. “This could have happened while we were there. But that’s a long way from here.”

"I figure about 650-675 miles as the crow flies," Mike replied. "I wonder if the Supervolcano is coming early."

"I wouldn't worry about it; Yellowstone is northeast, isn't it?" Jack asked.

"Almost straight north," Mike explained. "Let's listen and see how big of an area they're evacuating."

One website said scientists have discovered that the ground in Yellowstone is 74cm higher than it was in 1923 – indicating a massive swelling underneath the park. The reservoir was filling with magma at an alarming rate. The volcano erupts with a near-clockwork cycle of every 600,000 years. The last eruption was more than 640,000 years ago – we are overdue for annihilation.

Immediately before the eruption, there would be large earthquakes in the Yellowstone region. The ground would swell further with most of Yellowstone being uplifted. One earthquake would finally break the layer of rock that holds the magma in – and all the pressure the Earth can build up in 640,000 years would be unleashed in a cataclysmic event.

Magma would be flung 50 kilometers into the atmosphere. Within a thousand kilometers falling ash, lava flows and the sheer explosive force of the eruption would kill virtually all life. Volcanic ash would coat places as far away as Iowa and the Gulf of México. One thousand cubic kilometers of lava would pour out of the volcano, enough to coat the whole of the USA with a layer 5 inches thick. The explosion would have a force 2,500 times that of Mount St. Helens. It would be the loudest noise heard by man for 75,000 years, the time of the last super volcanic eruption. Within minutes of the eruption tens of thousands would be dead.

The long-term effects would be even more devastating. The thousands of cubic kilometers of ash that would shoot into the atmosphere could block out light from the sun, making global temperatures plummet. This was called a nuclear winter. As during the Sumatra eruption a large percentage of the world's plant life would be killed by the ash and drop in temperature. Also, virtually the entire of the grain harvest of the Great Plains would disappear in hours, as it would be coated in ash. Similar effects around the world would cause massive food shortages. If the temperatures plummet by the 21 degrees they did after the Sumatra (Toba) eruption the Yellowstone Supervolcano eruption could truly be an extinction level event.

Since someone said that, it couldn't happen any other way right? Not exactly. They didn't really expect what they got when Mt. St. Helens blew its top in 1980, did they? All an expert is, according to some, is an old drip under pressure. If you go to 4 different websites, you'll get 4 different opinions. It was due 40,000 years ago; it isn't due for another 60,000 years; and, it isn't due for 100,000 years. About the only thing that they agreed upon was that one-day Yellowstone might blow up.



The eruption of a Supervolcano “sooner or later” would chill the planet and threaten human civilization, British scientists warned Tuesday. And now the bad news: There’s not much anyone could do about it. Several volcanoes around the world were capable of gigantic eruptions unlike anything witnessed in recorded history, based on geologic evidence of past events, the scientists said. Such eruptions would dwarf those of Mount St. Helens, Krakatau, Pinatubo and anything else going back dozens of millennia. “Super-eruptions are up to hundreds of times larger than these,” said Stephen Self of the United Kingdom’s (UK) Open University.

The Huckleberry Ridge Tuff from 2 million years ago had a volume of 2,500 km<sup>3</sup>. The Lava Creek Tuff 630,000 years ago had a volume of 1,000 km<sup>3</sup>. And, didn’t they say what the one in between was 280 km<sup>3</sup>? The point was they did seem to be getting smaller. The first one went to the southeast and the most recent one went to the northwest. “Explosions of this magnitude happen about every 600,000 years at Yellowstone,” says Chuck Wicks of the US Geological Survey, who had studied the possibilities in separate work. “And it’s been about 620,000 years since the last super explosive eruption there.” The opinions ranged from an ELE to a reduced explosion. Maybe this one would only put out 5-600 kilometers<sup>3</sup> of debris. Mt. St. Helens put out 2 kilometers<sup>3</sup> when it blew at 8:32 Sunday morning, May 18, 1980.

Yellowstone might be winding down geologically, experts say. But they believe it harbored at least one final punch. Globally, there were still plenty of possibilities for Supervolcano eruptions, even as Earth quiets down over the long haul of its 4.5-billion-year existence.

“The Earth is of course losing energy, but at a very slow rate, and the effects are only really noticeable over billions rather than millions of years,” Stephen Sparks of the University of Bristol said. It sounded to me like we have more experts than volcanoes. In the Jemez Mountains, near Santa Fe, New Mexico, sat the Valles Caldera. It’s about 15 miles (24 kilometers) wide, made by two super-eruptions 1.6 and 1.1 million years ago. To the west, they had the Long Valley Caldera; and, to the north, the Yellowstone Caldera. Two of the three were rumbling; quick, surrender – you’re surrounded!

Remember back in 1980 when an 83-year-old lodge owner named Harry Truman said, “If I left this place, it would worry me to death?” That’s where he died, right there on Mt. St. Helens. Truman, along with his 16 cats, pink (Elvis Presley) Cadillac Coupe de Ville and 38 bottles of Schenley bourbon, was buried under 600 feet of volcanic material within seconds of the eruption. Sheesh, did he get buried or what? And what a waste, 38 bottles of bourbon! Reports vary; saying anywhere from 200’ to 600’, but anything over 6’ is extra.

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They didn’t see Yellowstone blow because the cameras were too close; but they heard it 650 miles away. The airborne ash plume front from the Mount St. Helens eruption of

1980 advanced rapidly to the northeast at an average velocity of about 250 kilometers per hour during the first 13 minutes after eruption. It then traveled to the east-northeast within a high-velocity wind layer at altitudes of 10-13 kilometers at an average velocity of about 100 kilometers per hour over the first 1,000 kilometers. Beyond about 60 kilometers, the thickest ash fall was east of the volcano in Washington, northern Idaho, and western Montana. A distal thickness maximum near Ritzville, Washington, was due to a combination of factors: (1) crude sorting within the vertical eruptive column, (2) eruption of finer ash above the high-velocity wind layer at altitudes of 10-13 kilometers, and (3) settling of ash through and below that layer. Isopach maps for the May 25, June 12, August 7, and October 16-18 eruptions showed distal thickness maximums similar to that of May 18.

While estimates of the amount of the Mt. St. Helens debris varied, Yellowstone put out 750 km<sup>3</sup>, or roughly 375 times as much. Of course, the ash plume was 375 times bigger but the pyroclastic flow and many of the other features of the Yellowstone eruption followed the rule of inverse squares meaning that the plume front didn't proceed at 250kph for 375 times 60km. It only spread out about 1,100 km. 650 miles is about 1046km. Sedona was inside of the ash plume.

The June 1991 eruption (of Mount Pinatubo) created a 2.5-kilometer-wide collapse caldera and filled valleys around Pinatubo with about 5.5 +/- 0.5 km<sup>3</sup> of pyroclastic-flow deposits. The new summit elevation of Mount Pinatubo was approximately 1,485 meters above sea level, reduced from a pre-eruption elevation of 1,745 meters; the elevation of the caldera lake was between 820 and 840 meters above sea level, or about 650 meters below the highest point on the new caldera rim.

Before its June 15, 1991, eruption, Mount Pinatubo consisted of a rounded, steep-sided, domelike mass that rose about 700 meters above a broad, gently sloping, deeply dissected apron of pyroclastic and epiclastic materials. Some relics of older volcanic edifices, including an ancestral Mount Pinatubo, lay south, east, and northeast of Mount Pinatubo. In comparison to well-known stratocones such as Mayon or Fuji, Mount Pinatubo was small and inconspicuous, but its extensive pyroclastic apron told of large prehistoric explosive eruptions.

Eruption of about 5 cubic kilometers of magma on June 15, 1991 created a new, 2.5-kilometer-diameter collapse caldera centered slightly northwest of the pre-eruption summit. The pre-eruption summit was included in the area of collapse, so the post-eruption height of Mount Pinatubo was substantially reduced. Eruptive products largely filled valleys that had existed in the pyroclastic apron; valleys that had been carved into older volcanic terrain and partly filled by prehistoric eruptions of Mount Pinatubo were partly filled once again.

In the twentieth century, this (1991) eruption was second in size only to an eruption in Katmai, Alaska, in 1912. Ten times larger than the eruption of Mt. St. Helens in 1980, Pinatubo's eruption threatened the lives of a million people. A giant ash cloud rose 35 kilometers into the sky and hot blasts seared the countryside, but a more serious disas-

ter was averted by timely, accurate warnings. Philippine authorities were able to evacuate 60,000 people from the slopes and valleys, and the American military evacuated 18,000 personnel and their dependents from Clark Air Base below the mountain – thus saving many thousands of lives and an estimated billion dollars in property and making this the most successful case of volcanic hazards mitigation in history.

Tephra-fall deposits 5 centimeters or more thick covered a land area of about 4,000 square kilometers surrounding Pinatubo. These deposits buried crops, and the weight of the rain-saturated tephra, no doubt with assistance from repeated intense seismic shaking and buffeting by wind, caused numerous roofs to collapse in the Philippine communities around the volcano and on the two large US military bases. More than 300 people died during the eruption, most of them from collapsing roofs. Without typhoon Yunya, the death toll might have been far smaller. The typhoon brought heavy rain, which saturated the accumulating tephra, and strong winds that contributed to the widespread dispersal of tephra falling from the broad stratospheric eruption cloud. The US had to close Clark AFB because of that eruption. That was 10 years after Mt. St. Helens; you should all remember that one.

And, you thought Yellowstone erupting would kill you. It did a pretty good job on killing people within a 250km radius, initially. But that was only the beginning. Carl Sagan was right in a way; he was just focused on the wrong type of event. You couldn't call it nuclear winter so what could you call it? How about volcanic winter? And, it wouldn't last for decades, maybe only years. Volcanic winter was a proven fact.

Ways in which the world climate might be catastrophically disturbed have received a great deal of attention as a result of three series of papers. The first was led by a 1967 paper by Manabe and Wetherald, which reported that atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels were rising, and forecast that a doubling of CO<sub>2</sub> levels would cause an increase in average world temperatures of about 2.3°C as the result of the greenhouse effect. It was followed by many papers which have forecast increases in average world temperatures over the next century by as much as 6°C as the result of man-caused increases in levels of CO<sub>2</sub>. Some of these papers have warned of severe effects on ecosystems and the fate of nations. A recent EPA report has concluded that greenhouse warming over the next fifty years is unavoidable, and urges planning for the effects.

The second was led by a 1980 article by Luis W. Alvarez and his associates, which reported finding a distinct clay layer at the Cretaceous-Tertiary (C-T) boundary containing the element iridium whose isotopic composition was characteristic of meteorites rather than terrestrial rocks. They suggested that this was evidence of the impact of an asteroid about 10 kilometers in diameter 65 million years ago. They hypothesized that such an impact would darken the skies with dust, which might reduce surface temperatures enough to cause the mass extinction of the dinosaurs and many other species then living, the fossil record of which seems to coincide with the C-T boundary. Further work has found such layers at many sites around the world and tended to confirm the impact hypothesis. There is still controversy concerning where the impact occurred, to what extent it caused the extinctions during this era, and whether the most important climatic

and biological effects were the result of darkening, cooling, heating, flooding, or other mechanisms.

The third series of papers began with a 1982 article by Paul J. Crutzen and John W. Birks, who forecast that a nuclear war would loft enough smoke and dust to cause a darkening of the skies and enough hydrocarbons and oxides of nitrogen to cause dangerous levels of air pollution. It was followed by a 1983 article by Turco, Toon, Ackerman, Pollack, and Sagan (called TTAPS), which predicted that multiple nuclear explosions could, depending on their number, yield, and type of target, blanket the entire planet with a cloud of soot and dust for 3-12 months that would reduce sunlight by up to 99 percent and reduce average temperatures to as low as  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-40^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) in the interiors of Northern Hemisphere continents. They called this scenario a “nuclear winter”. A companion article by Paul Ehrlich and his associates argued that dark and cold could combine to cause the death of much unprotected life and deal a blow to food production that could cause massive starvation. These papers led to a surge of work in many research centers around the world, most of which had thus far confirmed the general thrust of the TTAPS model, and to a strategic reassessment by nuclear planners. The National Climate Program Office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has been appointed to coordinate the preparation of a National Plan of Research on this subject, with the participation of several agencies, including the Defense Nuclear Agency, the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Oops! Never overlook the obvious. On several occasions, such as before the Mount Pinatubo eruption, sulfur dioxide emissions had dropped to low levels prior to eruptions. Most scientists believed that the sealing of gas passages caused this drop in gas levels by hardened magma. Such an event leads to increased pressure in the volcano’s plumbing system and an increased chance of an explosive eruption. What did you say about Old Faithful?

Large, explosive volcanic eruptions inject water vapor ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ), carbon dioxide ( $\text{CO}_2$ ), sulfur dioxide ( $\text{SO}_2$ ), hydrogen chloride ( $\text{HCl}$ ), hydrogen fluoride ( $\text{HF}$ ) and ash (pulverized rock and pumice) into the stratosphere to heights of 10-20 miles above the Earth’s surface. The most significant impacts from these injections come from the conversion of sulfur dioxide to sulfuric acid ( $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ ), which condenses rapidly in the stratosphere to form fine sulfate aerosols. The aerosols increase the reflection of radiation from the Sun back into space and thus cool the Earth’s lower atmosphere or troposphere; however, they also absorb heat radiated up from the Earth, thereby warming the stratosphere. Several eruptions during the past century have caused a decline in the average temperature at the Earth’s surface of up to half a degree (Fahrenheit scale) for periods of one to three years.

The sulfate aerosols also promote complex chemical reactions on their surfaces that alter chlorine and nitrogen chemical species in the stratosphere. This effect, together with increased stratospheric chlorine levels from chlorofluorocarbon pollution, generated chlorine monoxide ( $\text{ClO}$ ), which destroyed ozone ( $\text{O}_3$ ). As the aerosols grow and coagu-

late, they settled down into the upper troposphere where they serve as nuclei for cirrus clouds and further modify the Earth's radiation balance. Most of the hydrogen chloride (HCl) and hydrogen fluoride (HF) were dissolved in water droplets in the eruption cloud and quickly fell to the ground as acid rain. The injected ash also fell rapidly from the stratosphere; most of it was removed within several days to a few weeks. Finally, explosive volcanic eruptions release the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide and thus provide a deep source of carbon for biogeochemical cycles.

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"Dang," Mike said.

"That's an understatement," Jack grimly responded.

"I wonder how much time we have until that ash gets here." Mike asked.

"Several hours, maybe days," Jack suggested.

"I'll buy hours, Jack, we'd better get the livestock under shelter," Mike responded.

"I'll give John a call," Jack announced.

"I'll go after Jose and Maria and on the way back, I'll let Shelia know that we're going to have to think about the shelters," Ginger added.

"Maybe not, honey, let's wait and see how bad the ash gets," Mike advised her. "Jack, ask John how much hay he has on hand and tell him we'll take all we can get. I'll go to town and pick up the kids."

When Mike got to Sedona, school officials already were expecting the parents and had the kids lined up waiting for the busses to arrive. He got Tom, Juan and Teresa from High School and went looking for the twins and the others. When he had everyone crammed into the Hummer, he headed back to the ranch. Jack and Jose had the livestock in the corrals at the barns and Mike learned that John told Jack he had as much hay as they could use. Jack had gone ahead and bought all that John would sell them, just in case. John suggested that they should have enough to get by at the moment and he'd see about starting deliveries after they weathered the ash cloud.

It had been 70,000 years since the last Supervolcano (Toba) had erupted. The behavior Yellowstone exhibited wasn't at all what scientists expected and they were admitting that the suddenness of the event caught them a little off guard. When Old Faithful interrupted its regular schedule, they'd become concerned and had contacted DHS about setting up the evacuations. Since 2004 the DHS's National Response Plan (NRP) covered the country.

The preface asserted, “The NRP represents a true national framework in terms of both product and process. The NRP development process included extensive vetting and coordination with Federal, State, local, and tribal agencies, nongovernmental organizations, private-sector entities, and the first-responder and emergency management communities across the country. The NRP incorporates best practices from a wide variety of incident management disciplines to include fire, rescue, emergency management, law enforcement, public works, and emergency medical services. The collective input we received from our public- and private sector partners has been, and will continue to be, absolutely critical to the implementation and continued refinement of the core concepts included in this groundbreaking national plan.”

In the movies either they get everyone safely evacuated or a lot of people get caught because there isn't time to move them all away from the area of danger. Take *Deep Impact* for example. Morgan Freeman was so busy building shelters for 1,000,000 people they didn't start evacuating the people soon enough. They tried to destroy the asteroid approaching Earth and only when that failed did they begin the evacuations. Pretty poor planning in my view, but it was only a movie. In hindsight scientists were saying they should have shut Yellowstone down when Old Faithful gave them the first clue. And you know the media; it had to be someone's fault, talk to George Tenet about that. They got most, but not all, of the people out of the area of the pyroclastic flow. It was the dawn of a *volcanic winter*.

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Long-term survivability depended on many things. Timing was the most critical factor and the eruption had come after many of the crops had been harvested. The fact that Yellowstone had only discharged about 750 km<sup>3</sup> of debris was equally important. The aftermath wouldn't last nearly as long as some had predicted. On the other hand, how long does it take to destroy a society? Highways were already clogged with people who had packed up and were trying to flee. The majority of the problem would be west of the Mississippi.

“What a mess,” Jack observed.

“They'd have been smarter just to sit tight and let the ash cloud settle,” Mike agreed. “It isn't the ash cloud that's going to be the problem; it's the loss of the growing season.”

“I never thought we'd be facing this kind of a disaster,” Jack shook his head. “You've done some studying, what did you learn on the Internet?”

“That Philippine volcano affected weather for about 3 years,” Mike replied. “This eruption is a whole magnitude bigger so I don't believe anyone knows what to expect. Certainly there will be a food crisis because of the shortened growing season. As soon as we can get out, we need to stock up as much food as we can lay our hands on. We should be ok on diesel fuel, but propane might be a problem. If we have to run the gen-

erators, we'd better only run one of them. We're going to need to think about everything in the long-term, Jack."

"Do you want to take a trailer and head to Flagstaff?" Jack asked. "The sooner we get there, the more food we're likely to find. You know how people are in a disaster."

"I think it's already too late to try and buy food in Flagstaff," Mike surmised. "We have enough of our regular supplies to get by for a couple of months and then there's always the survival food. If we were to go anywhere, I think we ought to go to Phoenix. There are 11 Costco stores in the greater Phoenix area and several of the Sam's Clubs."

"Shelia, how much cash do we have on hand?" Jack asked.

"Maybe not enough for that kind of shopping trip, but you can always find a Wells Fargo," she replied.

"What do you think Mike?" Jack asked.

"Let's get a pickup and the trailer and head for Phoenix," Mike suggested. "Jose and Juan can keep an eye on the ranch and Tom can come with us. Tom you get that Glock I gave you and bring it and the extra magazines. It will be your responsibility to protect our purchases while Jack and I load up on food."

## Guys and Dolls – Chapter 19 – Phoenix

The snowbirds usually start showing up in Phoenix in October and November. They would, without doubt, be earlier this year and most of the stores were stocked in anticipation of their arrival. Jack had vetoed Mike's suggestion and they took both Tom and Juan to Phoenix with them, both armed with Glock 23's. A pickup and trailer load of food wouldn't last them very long so they rented the largest U-Haul truck they could find to haul extra food back to the ranch. While they were getting ready to leave, the ladies made up a shopping list. That was a good thing, because left on their own the men might have missed some of the things that Shelia and Maria added. Remember there were 2 women age 50 or younger and a teenaged girl.

They spent about as much time shopping in Phoenix, as it would take them to drive both ways. People were beginning to hit the stores and stocking up so many of the grocers imposed purchase limits. Wells Fargo had also imposed withdrawal limits and they had to hit several banks to have enough cash to make their purchases. People who'd maxed out their ATM's and credit cards compounded the problem of buying food. Five hours after they'd arrived in Phoenix, the men headed home with all of the food they were able to buy. It wasn't as much as they wanted, but it was all that they had room for.

"Now you've had a chance to see people at their worst, Tom," Mike pointed out, "What did you think?"

"I think that it's just going to get worse," Tom replied. "Jack and you had cash and a shopping list. Several of the other people approached Juan and me and tried to take the things we had in the trailer."

"It was pretty clever putting the toilet paper and things in the trailer, was that your idea?" Mike asked.

"Juan's," Tom replied. "He said that people might fight over food but he didn't think that anyone was willing to die over toilet paper."

"We have to return the truck tomorrow so we'll see how much more food we can buy," Mike pointed out. "I doubt we'll have the luck we've had today."

"Why are we buying so much food?" Tom asked. "The two of you must have bought enough to keep us eating for over a year. And we have all of that freeze dried food at home in the basements."

"That ash cloud will settle out eventually, but there will be a lot of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere Tom," Mike explained. "The growing season will be affected for years. We're going to have to try and grow as much food as we can to supplement the food we bought today and what we'll get tomorrow. That's why we bought all of the hay that John could sell us. Eventually I'd imagine that we'll be unable to get propane or diesel fuel and we'll be totally dependent on the food we grow and the electricity we can



generate with our PV panels. You saw what it was like today. Imagine what it will be like in the future when the grocery stores can't get food."

"Oh," Tom said, "I hadn't thought that far ahead. I guess this changes everything. Juan and I probably won't be able to go to college."

"Take life a day at a time, Tom," Mike recommended. "It's too early to know what will be going on this time next year."

The following day, they returned the U-Haul to Phoenix and managed to load up the pickup and trailer with additional food. They also loaded up on gardening supplies and in that respect were several weeks ahead of others in their planning. The storage rooms in the basements were filled with all kinds of jars and lids so they could probably can all they could produce in the coming years without too much of a problem. They bought extra lids for the canning jars, just in case. The ash cloud had arrived but wasn't terribly thick over 1,000km from Yellowstone. It stopped about halfway between Flagstaff and Phoenix.

The news organizations had tried to get footage from the area of the cloud, but their helicopters couldn't fly in the ash and they ended up showing satellite pictures of the cloud instead. Ferrellgas topped off their propane tanks and they called Chevron to top off the diesel. Both companies told them that future deliveries might be in question. School resumed the following week and it appeared that life was returning to normal. In many respects it was, remember 1980? On the other hand this eruption had covered  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the county in volcanic ash.

"Jack?" Shelia asked. "What is our fuel situation?"

"We have everything full, Shelia," Jack replied. "Unless we could get more tanks, we don't have any more room for fuel. Why do you ask?"

"Ginger and I pulled our money out of the money market accounts and we have it all in cash," Shelia explained. "We were talking about adding another propane tank and diesel tank."

"Have you talked to Ferrellgas?" Jack asked. "That's where you'd have to go to get the tanks and propane."

"Since Jose and Maria don't have a tank, they told me that they could set them up with an 11,000-gallon tank and fill it one time," Shelia said. "I went ahead and ordered it."

"If you ordered it, why are we having this discussion?" Jack chuckled.

"We could probably get another tank from a distributor down in Phoenix," Sheila replied.

"I don't think that will be necessary," Jack responded. "We'll only be running the generators when we don't have solar generated electricity. You'd probably be better off spending your money on putting in another diesel tank."

"Do you think we could get one put in?" Shelia asked.

"Now maybe yes, but a year from now I doubt it," Jack replied. "It's going to get very bad before it gets back to normal. Most of the wheat producing area of the country is buried under several inches of ash. Once people start running out of food, Mike and I think that things will turn ugly. North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, northern Texas, Colorado and Utah are completely buried according to the news on TV. So is a vast portion of the growing area in Idaho. If you're going to put in more diesel or solar power, you'd better do it immediately."

Shelia and Ginger ordered another 12kw PV array like the one that Shelia and Jack had on their house. They mounted this array on one of the barns and split the new batteries between the two shelters. It was a matter of being first again and having the cash to pay for the array and equipment. They lucked into a 40,000 gallon diesel tank but paid a premium for 40,000 gallons of fuel. They got Ralph to do the extra electric work and Jim to put in two open pole-sheds for the hay that John was delivering. By the time the first snow fell, they were as ready as they could make themselves.

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The first snowfall came early and it was heavier and one hell of a lot colder than in previous years. It had been a complete madhouse trying to prepare for the inevitable crash of the American society. Food had started to run short during early October, principally due to distribution problems, not the lack of food. Food riots had erupted in most of the cities affected by the food shortages and the US was becoming a very unpleasant place to live.

Long afflicted with gang problems the United States was about to experience the full wrath of starving people. Not since the Great Depression in the 1930's had America seen problems like this. Candidly, the Great Depression was a picnic by comparison. Food became very expensive and in very short supply. So did fuel for the motor vehicles. One thing the US didn't seem to have any shortage of was firearms and cartridges. A lot of the arms and ammo from the Mexican Invasion had been stored against future needs by the military and found their way into the hands of the public. The contractor from Phoenix who put in the PV array told them nightmare stories of how things had become in Phoenix and the southern tier of states.

President Bush had been on TV several times trying to reassure the American population that there was food available. He had been forced to declare martial law and federalize the National Guards in all of the states in an effort to restore law and order. Bush didn't appear to be going without food and his appearances did as much to anger the population as reassure them. Entering into the spring of 2008, the United States was in

trouble. More often than not, people attacked the troops entering areas to restore order and distribute food and by June of 2008, the country had become something from a bad science fiction novel.

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Scientists were now saying that the eruption of Yellowstone was only slightly larger than the prehistoric eruption of the Long Valley Caldera, which had spewed forth 580 km<sup>3</sup> of ash. Nobody was listening; all they knew was that they were hungry. Washington was dealing with more than just the American people being hungry. The entire Northern Hemisphere was affected by the catastrophe. Remember the nightmare scenario about the Gulf Stream stopping written by Swartz and Randall in October of 2003? How was this any different in result? That was a rhetorical question and the answer was that it wasn't any different, except that maybe this event would be longer reaching in its effect.

The Weather Report: 2010-2020:

- Drought persists for the entire decade in critical agricultural regions and in the areas around major population centers in Europe and eastern North America.
- Average annual temperatures drop by up to 5 degrees Fahrenheit over Asia and North America and up to 6 degrees Fahrenheit in Europe.
- Temperatures increase by up to 4 degrees Fahrenheit in key areas throughout Australia, South America, and southern Africa.
- Winter storms and winds intensify, amplifying the impact of the changes. Western Europe and the North Pacific face enhanced westerly winds.

Each of the years from 2010-2020 sees average temperature drops throughout Northern Europe, leading to as much as a 6 degree Fahrenheit drop in ten years. Average annual rainfall in this region decreases by nearly 30%; and winds are up to 15% stronger on average. The climatic conditions are more severe in the continental interior regions of northern Asia and North America. Change the starting date by a couple of years and you have an accurate portrayal of the weather conditions in the world in 2008.

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"Ginger and I had planned on talking to you about adoption proceedings," Mike told Tom. "But with all that's happened, that doesn't appear to be in the cards."

"It doesn't really matter, the two of you are the only Mom and Dad I've really known," Tom replied. "I never knew my birth father all that well and my mom was a junkie. I barely remember her. Ginger and you have been the best thing that happened to me in my whole life."

"Ginger and I couldn't have any children and as far as we're concerned, you're our son and will get everything when we're gone," Mike replied.

“Don’t talk like that,” Tom reacted. “You and Mom are going to live forever.”

“No, we won’t Tom, but we aren’t ready to go just yet,” Mike laughed. “Don’t be digging any holes to bury us. I’m sorry but it looks like you were right about college.”

“That’s ok, I’ll just become a Professional Survivalist,” Tom smiled.

“That’s going to be a full time job before this is all over,” Mike advised. “What about a wife and family?”

“I’m covered,” Tom laughed. “I’m pretty partial to Teresa and Juan has been getting close with a girl in our class. It all depends on what happens, doesn’t it? There might not be school this coming year.”

“Have you talked to Jose about Teresa?” Mike asked.

“Sure, Dad, and Jose said that when Teresa was out of school, he’d be proud to have me as a son-in-law,” Tom answered.

“I guess we never had that father-son talk, did we?” Mike mentioned.

“Do you mean sex?” Tom asked. “What would you like to know?”

I can just hear the heavenly chorus right about here. Things had certainly changed since that night in McCormick & Schmick’s, when Mike had met Ginger. Tom could do a lot worse than hooking up with Teresa. She was a raven-eyed beauty and about the only persons who didn’t know about Tom and Teresa were Mike and maybe Jack. Tom had been spending more time at Jose and Maria’s and all the while Mike thought it was to see Juan and study. It probably was, but Teresa was every bit as pretty as Ginger and had a figure to match.

“What are you going to do about housing?” Mike asked.

“I’ve got enough money in my college fund to buy a doublewide and put in a basement if Jack will sell me some land,” Tom replied. “And, I can help Juan build an Adobe like Jose’s.”

“What will you do for a vehicle?” Mike asked.

“I gave him my pickup,” Ginger answered. “And before you ask, I talked to Shelia and we ordered 2 more propane tanks not 1. I talked to Ferrellgas and they can fill them one time only. I also contacted a dealer down in Phoenix and he has a 30kw diesel Kohler generator available. Shelia and I couldn’t get any more Mountain House foods for their shelter but I talked to John and he can build them a blast door. We aren’t likely to have

a nuclear war, but Jim said he thought he could get a LUWA air system from some outfit down in Texas. Any other questions?"

"When's the wedding?" Mike laughed.

"Right after Teresa finishes school," Tom replied.

"So, we'll have 40,000-gallons of propane?" Mike asked. "Maybe Jack and I ought to look for a Ma Deuce. We're going to end up fighting people off over our fuel."

"The propane or the diesel?" Ginger asked.

"Probably the propane," Mike replied. "That's what we have the most of."

"Well, not exactly," Ginger laughed. "We'll have 80,000-gallons of diesel and 5,000-gallons of gasoline. Shelia and I sat down and figured out that if we do much traveling, and fuel becomes hard to get we could run out on two tanks of diesel. We have 6 diesel vehicles and assuming an average mileage of 15mpg and 30,000 miles a year, we could run out of fuel at just the wrong time."

"Will we have any money left?" Mike asked.

"Some, plus we have all of that gold," Ginger smiled. "Gold is up to \$700 an ounce. Here, you'll need this."

"What is it?"

"The matching rifle for your MUNS, a McMillan TAC-50. It has the Nightforce NXS 12-42x56mm scope upgrade and a suppressor from Mike's over in Texas. The dealer recommended Hornady A-MAX 750gr match ammo and I bought you 4,000 rounds. He also mentioned that the military uses a HEIAP round and sold me 15 cans. This should cover Christmas and birthdays for the rest of your life."

Mike was beginning to feel like the fifth wheel on a 4WD vehicle. He thought he was on top of everything that went on in his family. So do millions of other men. Having all of that fuel could be a problem in the coming days so he went to talk to Jack about what the women had done. Man, was that TAC-50 nice...

"How are we going to protect this ranch?" Mike asked. "Even adding in one more person, assuming Juan gets married too, we'll only have 14 people."

"I guess we'll have to bring out the big guns," Jack chuckled.

"The .50 cal's?" Mike asked.

"No, the 40mm M-79 Thumpers."

"I wouldn't mind having some but they aren't legal," Mike pointed out.

"That's why I never said anything, Mike," Jack replied. "Everything else I have is registered and I'm not really one to break the law. However, I had a chance a few years ago to buy some M-79's so I did. And periodically, I've been able to pick up a few of the grenades. I sort of figured that what you didn't know couldn't hurt me. I have M406, M433, M576 and M1060 rounds for the launchers."

"What no .50 caliber machinegun?" Mike asked.

"You think the M-79's won't be enough?" Jack asked.

"They'll be fine, I was just thinking about all of the surprises I've had today," Mike shook his head. "I wouldn't be at all surprised to see them pulling in a new doublewide for Tom and Teresa. I'll have to show you my new .50 caliber rifle."

"You bought another one?"

"Actually, I never bought a Barrett. Ginger apparently knew I wanted a Tac-50 and got me one. It has a titanium suppressor made by a guy in Texas, a Night Force 12-42x56mm Mil Dot day scope and a McCann Night Vision Rail Mount for my MUNS. And, get this; she bought me 5,800 rounds of ammo."

"What kind of ammo?"

"Four thousand rounds of Hornady 750gr A-MAX match and eighteen hundred rounds of Raufoss."

"We'll go for adjoining cells."

The dealer was holding the doublewide until Jim finished up the basement. Due to the worsening situation, the Sedona Board of Education announced during July of 2008 that they were going to allow 11th and 12th grade children to try to test out of school and receive a diploma. Teresa took the test and passed and in August of 2008, she received her diploma and Tom and she got married. They had gotten Juan's Adobe finished and a double wedding was held on Saturday, August 16, 2008. Juan's new wife was a pretty young thing named Selena.

The public schools didn't open during the fall of 2008 but they went out of their way to make home schooling possible. Ginger and Shelia needn't have worried about the fuel. People rarely left the ranch. The situation was serious on the other side of the 7' high fence.

Street gangs form for a variety of reasons. The United States has experienced the growth of many types of street and prison gangs within the last 30 years. During this

time period, influxes of legal and illegal refugees into the United States have had a documented effect on the formation of new street gangs.

In the early 1980s, a violent civil war began in El Salvador, which would last more than 12 years. Approximately 100,000 people were killed in the war, and more than one million people fled from El Salvador to the US. The Salvadorian refugees and immigrants initially settled primarily in southern California and Washington, DC. Some of the refugees and immigrants had ties with La Mara, a violent street gang from El Salvador. Others had been members of paramilitary groups like the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMNL) during the civil war. FMNL was made up of Salvadorian peasants who were trained as guerilla fighters. Many were adept at using explosives, firearms, and booby traps.

Most of the Salvadorian refugees settled in the established Hispanic neighborhoods of the "Rampart" area of Los Angeles. However, Salvadorians were not readily accepted into the Los Angeles Hispanic community, and were frequently targeted by local Hispanic gangs. As a result, in the late 1980s, some refugees and refugee members of La Mara and FMNL formed what is now known as the Mara Salvatrucha (MS) street gang in Los Angeles. Like many other street gangs, MS initially formed for protection, but quickly developed a reputation for being organized and extremely violent. MS membership continued to be fed by refugees from groups like FMNL.

Since its inception in California and Washington, DC, Mara Salvatrucha had expanded into Oregon, Alaska, Texas, Nevada, Utah, Oklahoma, Illinois, Michigan, New York, Maryland, Virginia, Georgia, Florida, Canada, and México. MS was unique in that, unlike traditional US street gangs, it maintained active ties with MS members and factions in El Salvador. Mara Salvatrucha is truly an international gang.

Mara Salvatrucha gang members maintained contact between groups in the United States and El Salvador for several specific reasons. In El Salvador, a hand grenade sells for \$1.00-\$2.00 US currency and an M-16 rifle will sell for approximately \$200.00-\$220.00 US dollars. This communication and alliance provided a mechanism for MS gang members to access military-style munitions and also established a network to traffic illegal firearms into the United States.

Although military weapons seemed to be readily available to this gang, street intelligence indicates they often had difficulty obtaining handguns, which were not readily available in El Salvador. This created a demand for small arms by MS members in the US and El Salvador. This demand was so high that MS members will often take handguns as payment for drug transactions. The guns were then sent back to El Salvador, or used in the United States.

MS was also involved in exporting stolen US cars to South America. The cars were often traded for drugs when dealing with cartels. It is estimated that 80% of the cars driven in El Salvador were stolen in the United States. Car theft was a lucrative business for MS.

The Mara Salvatrucha gang was involved in a variety of criminal enterprises. As with members of other gangs, MS members seemed willing to commit almost any crime, but MS gang members tend to have a higher level of criminal involvement than other gang members. MS members had been involved in burglaries, auto thefts, narcotic sales, home invasion robberies, weapons smuggling, carjacking, extortion, murder, rape, witness intimidation, illegal firearm sales, car theft and aggravated assaults. In terms of drug trafficking activities, common drugs sold by MS members included cocaine, marijuana, heroin, and methamphetamine. Mara Salvatrucha gang members had even placed a "tax" on prostitutes and non-gang member drug dealers who were working in MS "turf." Failure to pay up would most likely result in violence.

Originally, only Salvadorians could become members of Mara Salvatrucha. However, MS now included members from Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, and México. Mara Salvatrucha also had a few African-American members. MS had broken the race barrier for membership, but most new members were still selected because of their ethnic (Central American) background. The majority of MS gang members were between the ages of 11 and 40 years old.

Mara Salvatrucha members identify themselves with tattoos such as the number "13," or trece in Spanish. MS gang members would also use the Spanish word sureno, meaning "southerner" to identify themselves. Sometimes sureno was abbreviated to SUR. These terms make reference to the fact that MS gang members like to claim they were from southern California as opposed to northern California, and were rivals with northern California gangs. Often, this rivalry was taken outside the state of California. Additionally, Mara Salvatrucha gang members had several ongoing rivalries with large southern California gangs, including the 18th Street gang, and in California, commonly attacked 18th Street gang members on sight. There were many Hispanic gangs, including MS, which used the number "13," and the terms sureno and SUR as identifiers, including street/prison gangs outside of California. Thus, it was important to identify specific tattoos used by the Mara Salvatrucha gang, which include "M" or "MS," in addition to the 13 or SUR identification. Another common tattoo seen was "Salvadorian Pride." There is also a good chance that the member will also have the name of his particular clique tattooed on his/her body. Other tattoos encountered with MS members had included pentagrams and other occult symbols. These could be confusing when found in conjunction with gang tattoos and could cause misconceptions of Satanic involvement by the gang. The most common hand sign used by MS members is the letter M formed by using three fingers and pointing the hand downward. This hand sign can resemble the pitchfork sign used by Folk/People Nation gangs from the Midwest, and could be made with the fingers pointing up or down. The symbols used as tattoos were also used in graffiti and personal writings.

In general, Mara Salvatrucha members show no fear of law enforcement. They are not easily intimidated and frequently act defiantly. Mara Salvatrucha gang members had been responsible for the execution of three federal agents and numerous shootings of law enforcement officers across the country. MS gang members had been known to



booby-trap their drug stash houses using antipersonnel grenades on the assumption that these structures would be searched by law enforcement. MS members at one time often bragged of assaulting law enforcement officers as a means of showing their loyalty and commitment to the gang. However, these claims had never been confirmed. Today, assaults on law enforcement officers were not required for membership, but were always an option. Thus, officers dealing with MS members (or any street gang members, for that matter) should always use extreme caution.

Law enforcement and the courts had used two primary methods to deal with criminal activity by MS: arrest/incarceration and deportation. Between April 1994 and August 1995, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) arrested and deported more than 100 MS gang members to El Salvador. Many Mara Salvatrucha gang members were currently in the United States illegally and were concerned about deportation. If a gang member was deported to El Salvador, there was a chance they would be targeted by the Sombra Negra (Black Shadow) death squad. Sombra Negra and similar groups were legendary in Central America. Gangsters and citizens alike believed that the Sombra Negra was made up of rogue cops and military personnel who targeted unwanted criminals and gang members for vigilante "justice". While the governments of Central American countries officially denied the presence of these death squads, many MS members in the US believed these groups exist, and fear that they would be targeted after being deported. Honduran MS gang members had the same fear. Sombra Negra had claimed responsibility for the deaths of several MS gang members in El Salvador. The existence or belief in the existence of these death squads could also be a chief motivation for hardcore MS gang members to come to the United States

MS-13 was hungry. The authorities were too busy with other disturbances to police their members. The government had flooded Los Angeles and southern California with troops to quell the food riots. They couldn't go north, they had too many rivals. Instead, they chose to go east. There were 3 routes into Arizona from California: I-40, I-10 and I-8. They took all three. The CHP warned the Arizona authorities that the gangs were coming and the authorities broadcast a warning on TV.

"Mike, this is John," John said. "Did you see the announcement on TV?"

"I was wondering if you might call," Mike replied.

"We'd like to load up what we have and move down to your ranch," John explained.

"Do you need help?" Mike asked.

"You might send up Jose, Tom and Juan," John suggested. "Have them bring pickups and any trailers you might have."

"Give them about an hour, John," Mike recommended. "Is there anything else that we can do?"

“Mike we’re already pretty much loaded up,” John explained. “We should be almost done by the time they arrive. Tell them to bring their guns.”

Three hours later John, Char, Johnny and Bobby were at the ranch. They hadn’t had any trouble but that didn’t mean that they wouldn’t. John had been a grenadier in Vietnam. As such, he was more than familiar with the M-79. He favored the M1A, too, but the Garand rifles were more affordable. John had taken the money he’d gotten from selling the hay to Jack and Mike and had bought, among other things, more of the Korean surplus ammo for his Garand’s. John put all of his gear in Tom’s basement and they sat back to see if MS-13 would show up.

## Guys and Dolls – Chapter 20 – Gangsta’s

Upon taking office in January 2003, Governor Janet Napolitano announced that efforts to detect, prevent and respond to acts of terrorism would be one of her administration’s priorities. Governor Napolitano immediately took a number of steps including appointing an Interim Homeland Security Director to develop a plan for how the state would handle homeland security. The director convened a series of meetings with officials from federal, state and local governments as well as with stakeholders from the private sector. The Governor had a very nice 24-page plan, all typeset and everything. What Arizona didn’t have was a State Defense Force. Maybe that explained why back in 2005, the citizens of Arizona found it necessary to start the Minuteman Project? The idea behind the State Defense Forces was to give the state National Guard some backup in case they were federalized and taken outside of the state.

There were US right wing political movements that called themselves *citizens’ militia*, and were supposedly based on the common law concept of an armed citizenry. These were not formally linked to a state or Federal government, and often opposed the Federal government because of what they consider oppressive policies. In the western US many Militants were opposed to illegal immigration, and several espoused white supremacy. This movement peaked in the early 1990’s, and declined in popularity after the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on April 19, 1995. The FBI had published its report on the militia movement and had determined that the movement was not a threat to the national security of the United States.

Independent survivalist paramilitary organizations maintaining weapons stockpiles and training grounds had become a subculture in the United States.

Many anti-US government “militias” developed within the United States during the 1970s and 1980s, and experienced waves of growth in the 1990s.

There was not a simple definition of how a group qualifies as a militia. However, the following general criteria could be used as a guideline: (1) a militia was a domestic organization with two or more members; (2) the organization must possess and use firearms; and (3) the organization must conduct or encourage paramilitary training. Other terms used to describe militias were Patriots and Minutemen.

Most militias engaged in a variety of anti-government rhetoric, but were not anti-government, they were anti-repression. Because of their beliefs that the US government was to varying degrees unlawful, or engaged in unlawful practices, their activities ranged from the protesting of government policies to the advocating violent and/or non-violent revolution or the overthrow of the federal government.

However, the majority of militia groups were non-violent and only a small segment of the militias actually committed acts of violence to advance their political goals and beliefs. A number of militia leaders, such as Lynn Van Huizen of the Michigan Militia Corps-

Wolverines, had gone to some effort to actively rid their ranks of radical members who were inclined to carry out acts of violence and/or terrorism. Officials at the FBI Academy classified militia groups within four categories, ranging from moderate groups who did not engage in criminal activity to radical cells, which committed violent acts of terrorism.

Militia anxiety, paranoia and millenarianism relating to the year 2000 were based mainly on a political ideology, as opposed to religious beliefs. Many militia members believed that the year 2000 would lead to political and personal repression enforced by the United Nations and countenanced by a compliant US government. This belief was commonly known as the New World Order (NWO) conspiracy theory. Other issues, which had served as motivating factors for the militia movement, included gun control, the incidents at Ruby Ridge (1992) and Waco (1993), the Montana Freeman Standoff (1996) and the restriction of land use by federal agencies. One could find numerous references in militia literature to military bases to be used as concentration camps in the NWO and visiting foreign military personnel conspiring to attack Americans.

Odinism was a popular alternative to Christianity between white separatist and racist militias.

Most of the crackpots were gone and now the federal government had authorized State Defense Forces (in 1933). The federal government officially recognized State Defense Forces under 32 USC Sec 109 and provided that State Defense Forces “may not be called, ordered, or drafted into the armed forces”, thus preserving their independence from the National Guard. As I said, Arizona didn’t have a State Defense Force. But, right about now, it sure needed one. They had MS-13 knocking on their door. The Minuteman Project may have been forced to disband, but the people were still around.

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Members of a violent Central America-based gang had been sent to Arizona to target Minuteman Project volunteers, who would begin a month long border vigil this weekend to find and report foreigners sneaking into the United States, project officials say.

James Gilchrist, a Vietnam veteran who helped organize the vigil to protest the federal government’s failure to control illegal immigration, said he had been told that California and Texas leaders of Mara Salvatrucha, or MS-13, had issued orders to teach “a lesson” to the Minuteman volunteers.

“We’re not worried because half of our recruits were retired trained combat soldiers,” Mr. Gilchrist said. “And those guys were just a bunch of punks.”

More than 1,000 volunteers were expected to take part in the Minuteman vigil, which would include civilian patrols along a 20-mile section of the San Pedro River Valley, which had become a frequent entry point to the United States for foreigners headed north.

About 40 percent of the 1.15 million foreign nationals caught last year by the US Border Patrol trying to gain illegal entry to the United States were apprehended along a 260-mile stretch of the Arizona border here known as the Tucson sector.

Many of the Minuteman volunteers were expected to be armed, although organizers of the border vigil had prohibited them from carrying rifles. Only those people with a license to carry a handgun would be allowed to do so, Mr. Gilchrist said.

An operational plan called for teams of four to eight volunteers to be deployed along the targeted 20-mile stretch of border at intervals of 200 to 300 yards, along with observation posts and a command center.

Mr. Gilchrist said some of the patrols and posts would be right on the US – México border, while others would be located farther north. The volunteers also had been told to “make lots of noise and burn campfires at night to be very visible.”

According to guidelines issued to the volunteers earlier this month, organizers said they expect that they would be targeted by various protest groups and others and that some protesters would try to provoke confrontations.

“If we were to send the message loud and clear to President Bush and Congress, it was imperative we stay within the law,” Mr. Gilchrist said.

“If one single person steps over the line for their personal gratification, we were all stained with that irresponsible behavior and labeled forever as a fringe element that embarrasses all who were counting on us to make this historic statement,” he said.

The MS-13 gang had established major smuggling operations in several areas along the US – México border and have transported hundreds of Central and South Americans – including gang members – into the United States in the past two years. The gang also was involved in drug and weapons smuggling.

Gang members in America have been tied to numerous killings, robberies, burglaries, carjacking’s, extortion, rapes and aggravated assaults. Authorities said that the gang had earned a reputation from the other street gangs as being particularly ruthless and that it would retaliate violently when challenged.

The MS-13 gang, with 20,000 members nationwide, had risen in recent months to such prominence that US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security, had begun a nationwide crackdown on gang members in this country – as part of a sweeping law-enforcement initiative known as Operation Community Shield.

ICE agents arrested more than 100 members of the gang during limited raids that began in January in just six cities, including 35 who were taken into custody in Virginia and

Maryland. The authorities said MS-13 gang members originally moved into the Los Angeles area in the 1980s.

Now you know why the subject of MS-13 came up in the first place. There had been a big brouhaha back in 2005 and the Minuteman Project had been disbanded. They were needed now; maybe Arizona didn't need a State Defense Force, they had the Minuteman. And this time, they didn't leave their rifles at home like back in 2005. The Governor called the President but federal troops would be a long time coming. She issued an Executive Order naming the Minuteman Project as the temporary State Defense Force. It was reminiscent of a line out of the old movie, *In Harm's Way*, *Well, we all know the Navy's never wrong. But in this case, it was a little weak on bein' right.*

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There was a major difference in motivation here. The bad guys were hungry and the good guys were defending their homes. And, there were the people who chose not to get involved like the people on the ranch 4 miles south of Sedona. They had women and children to protect and there weren't very many of them, 18 counting the children. To their good fortune, 14 of the 18 were old enough to use firearms if called upon to do so. If the MS-13 gangsta's did show up, they were up against M-79's, 7.62 rifles, 30-06 semi-autos, .50 caliber rifles and M16 rifles. And don't forget the dynamite!

There were a lot of the gangsta's but they had to divide their forces into 3 columns, giving the defenders a bit of an edge. I-10 led straight into Phoenix, Arizona's largest city, and MS-13 concentrated their forces on the I-10 corridor. Shortly after crossing the Arizona border, I-10 snaked through a mountain pass on the way to Quartzsite. It was the perfect place for an ambush. Near the top of the mountain, barricades blocked the way. The Minutemen fell in behind the MS-13 gangsta's with semi tractor-trailers and they had them trapped. The rim of the mountain pass was lined with Minuteman and they shot the gangsta's like fish in a barrel. That was one thing about militias; they didn't have to play by any rules. Soft pointed hunting ammo was the preferred cartridge of the day and dynamite replaced hand grenades.

Much the same could be said for northern Arizona. South of Kingman, I-40 turns north along a row of hills. The gangsta's couldn't get their cars across the railroad tracks on the northwest side of the road and were eventually wiped out. In Yuma, they stopped them at Araz Junction right where I-8 crosses the water. The bridge made a natural roadblock. Putting in barriers and blocking the exits with more of the barriers gave MS-13 nowhere to run and nowhere to hide.

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The makeshift militia was disbanded, but the governor didn't repeal the Executive Order. It occurred to her that this might just be the first battle of the emergency. Nobody paid much attention to what the Minutemen took home with them after they buried the bodies. After taking out MS-13, the Minutemen were better armed than the Arizona Na-

tional Guard. Not to say that they weren't before the battles, but now there should be no doubt. In fact, they learned what the US military had been doing with all of their surplus arms and ammo. Other than M16s the most popular item seemed to be those M61 hand grenades. The US had eliminated the M61s in favor of the M67s. The only apparent reason had been that the M-67 was easier to throw. Both grenades had been introduced during Vietnam. The M61s simply disappeared.

The M67 weighed 2 oz less than the M61 and the shell of the grenade was the lethal part. The M67 also contained more compound B. By contrast the M61 contained a coil of piano wire with notches every  $\frac{3}{4}$ " or so all contained within a thin sheet metal shell. It was supposed to be an improvement over the Mk 2 pineapple of WW I and WW II. The M67 was of simpler construction and went boom louder. And then there was the bit about every American soldier being a natural born baseball player. Apparently by the middle of the first decade of the 21st Century they even figured out how to make a 6 second fuse that burned for ~6 seconds. Will wonders never cease! The real reason they told you not to hold the grenade was in case you got shot after pulling the pin.

The advantage to the Thumper was it could throw a grenade one hell of a lot further than you could. But it worked too well so they had to improve it and came up with the M-203. \$600 for a piece of 40mm pipe you attached to the bottom of your M16. They were going to modernize the Army to the point that nothing worked. The XM8 was a perfect example of an interim solution. It was part of the M29 OICW. They couldn't get the 25mm part to work right so they separated the system into 2 components, the rifle (XM-8) and the super duper XM25mm. Listen to the official description:

The XM29 has a dual semi-automatic over and under configuration capable of firing 25mm air bursting ammunition or NATO standard kinetic energy 5.56mm ammunition. Both weapons are magazine-fed, providing the combat soldier an operational firepower advantage over current single shot systems. The full-solution target acquisition fire control has a laser range finder, direct view optics, integrated thermal imager, ballistic computer, fuze setter, environmental sensors, and compass. The precision 25mm ammunition includes High Explosive Air Bursting (HEAB) and Target Practice (TP) variants. The system has been demonstrated at ranges two to three times the current 40mm system to accurately deliver an air burst one meter over the lased target on the first shot fired. Buck Rogers should be so well equipped. The OICW weapon will consist of two separable subsystems, a HE module, and a KE module, with a single trigger and selector switch that operated both subsystems and interacts with the TA/FCS automatic fuze programming. The KE module will utilize standard 5.56mm ammunition and have semi-automatic and burst modes equivalent to the M4 carbine. The HE subsystem will fire the HEAB ammunition in all four fusing modes. The weapon will be as reliable as the M16 rifle/M4. Now I know we're in trouble. The 25mm round cost \$20-\$30, each. I guess that meant it was better; it cost twice as much as a 40mm grenade.

All of which is off the subject, which was staying alive and protecting the ranch, against all enemies, domestic and domestic. They changed the name for the rifle from a rifle to a KE weapon, meaning they could charge the taxpayers more. The US XM8 Carbine is

being designed at the HK Defense design center in Sterling, Virginia and will be produced and assembled in the United States at the new Heckler & Koch manufacturing plant located in Columbus, Georgia, adjacent to Fort Benning. "The unit cost of the XM8 will be less than that of the current M4 Carbine and will guarantee the American war fighter uncompromising performance far exceeding that of current in-service M4 Carbiners." It should be cheaper because it was 90% plastic, including the magazines.

*I got some oceanfront property in Arizona  
From my front porch you can see the sea  
I got some oceanfront property in Arizona  
If you'll buy that I'll throw the Golden Gate in free*

Whoa, back up. We're talking about volcanoes, not earthquakes. And now, the Minutemen are armed to the teeth. I wonder where they were when México Invaded? The 25mm grenade launcher was fielded in Afghanistan as the XM25.

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Massive earthquakes had hit Yellowstone when it blew up. The dust cloud had reached its limit and was slowly beginning to dissipate, just as the USGS had predicted. Winter stayed longer and came earlier. The emergency evacuation had been a partial success but it turned out that they'd saved the people only to have them die later. DHS had its plan and it was implemented immediately. That went fine for a while but then the food began running out, even in the FEMA camps. Most of the US, indeed the entire world, was gripped by food riots. The military had been brought in to quell those disturbances, but they only had so much food. Things began to turn very ugly. Then, MS-13 headed for Arizona and became a part of American history. Good riddance.

Jose and the boys spread manure on the layer of ash and John turned the soil for a large garden. They couldn't get it in until June and they were forced to choose the varieties with the shortest growing season. Johnny and Bobby helped Juan and Tom build a new Adobe to give John and Char's family a place to live. When it was finished, they moved out of the shelter into their new home. A trip back to John's ranch to get their furniture had brought nothing but disappointment. The ranch house and the buildings had been burned to the ground. His large tank of propane was nowhere to be seen. But, they kept looking and found pieces of metal riddled with bullet holes.

The only thing that John and Char had that had survived was their shelter. They loaded up the furniture and equipment from the shelter and moved it down to the ranch south of Sedona. A rancher, like John, was a craftsman of all trades. Using scraps of lumber, they put together a small shed and John got his generator up and running. By August the ladies had finished canning and a few weeks later, in September, they had their first snowfall. They hadn't really planned on building a survival community 4 miles south of Sedona, but that was what the ranch was turning into. Ten months after Yellowstone erupted, the country was, for all practical purposes, back in the dark ages. Literally and figuratively.



“How did we make out on the garden?” Mike asked Ginger.

“We won’t be eating our usual variety of food, but we did well,” she replied. “I can see now that we should have purchased some things from that Walton Feed.”

“What for example?” Mike asked.

“Wheat,” she replied. “You’re just going to have to get used to eating tortillas. You can thank Maria that we have corn meal to make tortillas. She and Jose have a grinder and they make their own masa.”

“It never dawned on me that we’d actually get down to eating beans and rice,” Mike laughed.

“We have cattle but unless you fellas can find a bull, we don’t have any breeding stock,” she continued. “Plus we’ve pretty much exhausted the frozen chicken and pork. Mike, we need some chickens. We haven’t had milk or eggs for a while.”

“What’s that I’ve been eating on my cereal?” Mike asked.

“Instant milk, but it’s about gone and so is the cereal,” she grimaced.

“I hate to add to the troubles, but we’re getting low on hay to feed the cattle,” Mike pointed out.

“What’s the solution?” Ginger asked.

“I think we might have to send the boys out scavenging,” Mike suggested.

“Do you mean to tell me that we’re down to stealing?” Ginger asked.

“Ginger, I prefer to look at it as a reallocation of available resources,” he replied.

The list wasn’t that long:

- Chickens, roosters and hens
- Hogs, boars and sows,
- Beef, bull
- Hay for livestock

“I think maybe I can help out on the hay,” John offered. “We have a pole shed and we stored some hay out near the field where we harvested it.”

“What about livestock, John?” Mike asked.

“Sorry,” John replied.

“Jack do you have any ideas?” Mike asked.

“Not really,” Jack replied. “In all of our planning, we never considered an event of this magnitude.”

“I might know where we can get some hogs,” Jose offered.

“That’s a start; does anyone know anything about making ham and bacon?” Mike asked.

“I have a book from the library,” Shelia said. “We might be able to figure it out.”

“That still leaves poultry and a bull,” Mike stated. “Plus how much hay do you have, John? If we start growing livestock, we’re going to need more.”

“There must be 1,000 bales, assuming it’s still there,” John replied. “But I think all of my alfalfa seed was stored in the buildings that burned down.”

“I forgot,” Johnny added.

“Forgot what?” John asked.

“I forgot to put that bags of seed in the shed, Dad,” Johnny answered. “As far as I know it’s still out in the field under that pole building.”

“Are you forgetting that we have all of that gold in our safes?” Shelia asked. “We can’t eat it and we might be able to buy our way out of trouble, at least initially. All we need is some seed and seed stock.”

“I have those 4 Eagles,” John offered.

“John, we have 1,596 Eagles,” Shelia laughed.

“Then money isn’t a problem?” John asked.

“You can’t eat gold,” Mike shook his head.

“Actually you can, but it isn’t very nourishing,” Ginger laughed.

“We’d better send the boys after the hay before the snow gets any deeper,” John suggested.

It turned out that seed was available, what the country was short on was a growing season. They used up their paper money buying seed and the 5 Eagles got them a bull. Jo-

se had a million cousins and he got 2 sows and a boar for 4 Eagles. John had been right about the snow, it just got deeper. They ended up having a New England style Thanksgiving and Christmas right there in Sedona. Dang it was cold.

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Changes were made on the ranch to accommodate their changed circumstances. All of the livestock ended up on Mike and Ginger's 5 acres and they tilled the remaining 70 acres to produce hay, wheat, corn and vegetables. Teresa and Selena were also expecting babies. That probably happened after they lost first TV and then the radio. You couldn't see the ranch from the road, only that fence. Maybe that explained why they hadn't had visitors. The ladies held a baby shower for Teresa and Selena and Shelia came up with the old diapers. All the baby clothes were being recycled and because Jack and Shelia had twins, there were enough clothes to go around.

"At the rate we're using diesel," Tom pointed out, "We're going to use it up one of these days. That was a tough winter and the PV panels didn't put out much electricity."

"I don't think we'll find any more propane, Tom" Jack pointed out. "We won't run out of light, not with all of the diesel fuel."

"True, but without electricity, the furnaces don't run," Tom replied. "Let's face facts, one of these days we won't have electricity or propane."

"Mike, did we have a plan C?" Jack asked.

"Not really," Mike admitted. "There has to be propane somewhere, fellas. Maybe we should send a scouting party to the north into the Dead Zone."

"That should be you and me, Mike," Jack replied. "As much as I hate to admit it, we are more expendable than our kids."

"Count me in," John offered.

"Me, too," Jose added.

"We can take 89 north and get to St. George, Utah," Mike suggested.

"Who knows, we might actually find some Mormons who practiced their faith and had food stored," Jack pointed out.

"It's not against their religious beliefs to have guns, Jack," Mike laughed. "We'd better settle on trying to find propane."

“What about Ferrellgas?” Shelia asked.

“We can check when we go through Flagstaff, Shelia, but I wouldn’t get my hopes up,” Jack replied.

“How do you want to organize this?” Jose asked.

“We’ll find a fuel trailer so we can take along some diesel and take my Hummer,” Mike suggested. “Since John was a grenadier, he can carry a thumper. Jack and I can carry M16s and have our Super Match rifles available as backup. Jose can carry an M16. We can take some of that Mountain House food from the shelters.”

“What are you guys going to call yourselves?” Ginger asked, “The Geriatric Brigade?”

“After a few days on the road, we’ll be the Dirty Four,” Jack suggested.

Tom and Juan located a 300-gallon fuel trailer at a contractor’s place of business in Sedona. They bought it for a single Eagle and towed it back and filled it with stabilized fuel. All of the gas stations in Sedona were closed, not surprisingly. A lot of the townspeople had moved on when they lost their primary source of business, the tourist trade. Sedona was a veritable ghost town. On Monday, June 1, 2009, the 4 men set off to the Dead Zone to locate a source of propane.

“You be careful, Mike,” Ginger said holding him closely.

“We’ll all be careful Ginger,” Mike replied. “You hang around the radio every evening about 7pm and we’ll call in a progress report on 20-meters.”

“What frequency?” Ginger asked.

“Make it 13.850,” he suggested. “Back up will be 13.700.”

They stopped by Ferrellgas in Flagstaff but the facility was deserted. They did find a 9,000-gallon tanker and 2 3,000-gallon delivery trucks, all empty. No one in Flagstaff seemed to know where the people who ran the Ferrellgas facility had gone so they left a note and borrowed the trucks. They headed north on 89 and when they got to 9, turned west towards St. George, Utah. They had enough gold with them to buy fuel if they had to or, if they found fuel and no one was around, they intended to simply appropriate it.